Los Angeles Times

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JESSICA CHRISTIAN Associated Press

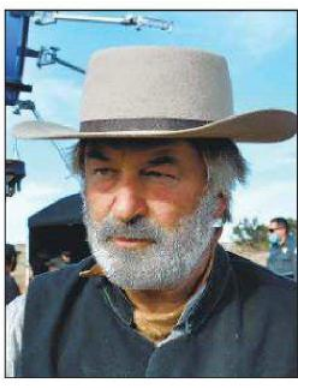
HELP ARRIVES

President Biden joins Gov. Gavin Newsom in Aptos, Calif., part of a tour of storm damage on the state's Central Coast. "The federal government is not leaving its responsibility," Biden said. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Baldwin will be charged in death on set

He and 'Rust' armorer face felony counts in the fatal shooting of Halyna Hutchins.

BY MEG JAMES AND ANOUSHA SAKOUI



Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office

ALEC BALDWIN on the set of the low-budget western after he fired a live shot from a prop gun.

New Mexico prosecutors said they are filing felony criminal charges against actor Alec Baldwin and the armorer of the low-budget western "Rust," following the fatal shooting of the film's cinematographer.

The charges represent a dramatic culmination of more than a year of speculation over who would be held accountable for the death of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins, a rising star in the film industry. Hutchins was shot in the chest Oct. 21, 2021, as she rehearsed a scene with Baldwin and the film's director, Joel Souza, who was wounded.

Baldwin is expected to be charged with two counts of involuntary manslaughter in Hutchins' death.

Prosecutors also plan to bring involuntary manslaughter charges against weapons handler Hannah Gutierrez Reed, who loaded the gun.

The district attorney said she plans to give the juries two options for the charges. If convicted under the lesser charge, Baldwin or Gutierrez would face up to 18 months in prison and a $5,000 fine. The district attorney also will ask the juries to consider a harsher penalty, which carries a mandatory five years in prison, because the alleged crime involved the use of a firearm.

The film's assistant director, David Halls, who investigators said gave the loaded revolver to Baldwin just before a rehearsal in an old wooden church at Bonanza Creek Ranch near Santa Fe, reached a plea

[See **'Rust,'** A6]

ANALYSIS

A tough question of blame in 'Rust' shooting

BY MICHAEL FINNEGAN

The criminal case prosecutors are filing against Alec Baldwin will turn on the same question that has dogged the actor since the day he shot cinematographer Halyna Hutchins on the New Mexico set of the film "Rust": Is he responsible for her death?

Under New Mexico's involuntary manslaughter laws, Baldwin could face up to five years in prison if a jury finds criminal negligence in his accidental firing of a vintage Colt revolver during the setup of a camera angle in October 2021.

Jurors will have to weigh whether he "should have known of the danger involved" when he pointed a loaded gun at Hutchins or "acted with a willful disregard for the safety of others."

Baldwin's attorney, Luke Nikas, said the actor "relied on the professionals with whom he worked, who assured him the gun did not have live rounds."

Baldwin has long proclaimed his innocence. It was not his duty as an actor, he said, to ensure the pistol was not loaded with live ammunition, which is generally banned on movie sets.

Assistant director Dave Halls — who has agreed to plead guilty to negligent use of a deadly weapon — had told Baldwin that it was a "cold gun," meaning its cylinder had been checked to ensure it was safe to use, according to the actor.

It was Hutchins, Baldwin said, who told him to point the gun at her as she was plotting a camera angle in a

[See **Charges,** A6]

The prosecutors 'wrestled' with it

The D.A. and special prosecutor sit for a Q&A. Also, a look at Baldwin's career arc. **CALENDAR, E1**

Delta water hard to capture

Lawmakers want more pumped to reservoirs after storms, but process is complex.

BY HAYLEY SMITH

Environmental rules designed to protect imperiled fish in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta have ignited anger among a bipartisan group of lawmakers, who say too much of California's stormwater is being washed out to sea instead of being pumped to reservoirs and aqueducts.

In a series of strongly worded letters, nearly a dozen legislators have implored state and federal officials to relax environmental pumping restrictions that are limiting the amount of water captured from the delta.

"When Mother Nature blesses us with rain, we need to save the water, instead of dumping it into the ocean," Assemblymember Vince Fong (R-Bakersfield) wrote in a letter to Gov. Gavin Newsom.

Since the beginning of January, a series of atmospheric rivers has disgorged trillions of gallons of much-needed moisture across drought-stricken California,

[See **Delta,** A9]

GARY CORONADO Los Angeles Times

IN THE Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, nearly 95% of recent rainwater flowed into the ocean.

Jose Huizar agrees to plead guilty

BY MICHAEL FINNEGAN AND DAVID ZAHNISER

Former Los Angeles City Councilmember Jose Huizar has agreed to plead guilty to racketeering and tax evasion, admitting that he extorted at least $1.5 million in bribes from real estate developers.

In a plea agreement filed Thursday in federal court in Los Angeles, Huizar acknowledged that sweeping corruption allegations that he has denied for years were actually true, saying he was "pleading guilty because I am guilty of the charges."

Huizar's unexpected capitulation caps a brutal downfall for a man who was born into poverty on a Mexican ranch, grew up in Boyle Heights, and went on to earn a master's at Princeton and a law degree at UCLA before serving 15 years on the L.A. City Council.

It also confirmed that pervasive graft tainted the city's byzantine process for approving real estate projects in downtown Los Angeles in recent years.

Huizar's deal with prosecutors came after developers were convicted of bribing him at two consecutive trials, and an array of other players at City Hall pleaded guilty to felonies.

The last major defendant in the scandal to face charges is former Deputy Mayor Raymond Chan, whose racketeering trial is set to start Feb. 21.

"He's innocent, so we're going to go to trial," Chan's attorney Harland Braun said.

Had he gone to trial alongside Chan, Huizar was sure to face a daunting arsenal of evidence that prosecutors have amassed, in-

[See **Huizar,** A9]

DAVID CROSBY, 1941 – 2023

The man with an angel's voice and a host of demons

BY STEVE CHAWKINS

Over the years, David Crosby achieved more than many an old hippie musician could even hallucinate. He and his band mates sold 35 million records. He was twice inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame — once for his years with the groundbreaking folk rock group the Byrds and then for his on-and-off decades with Crosby, Stills & Nash, a group described by the Hall of Fame as "America's longest-running experiment in vocal harmony and social relevance."

Crosby sailed the world in a 59-foot Honduran mahogany schooner called the Mayan. He piloted his own plane, lived on a ranch in the wine country north of Santa Barbara, and in his later years experienced a surprising burst of creativity that produced four albums along with concert dates across the country.

The bigger surprise, though, was that he had any later years at all. He suffered from diabetes and arterial disease, was implanted with eight cardiac stents, and survived heart attacks, blackouts, seizures and a motorcycle wreck. When hepatitis C destroyed his liver in 1994, doctors saved his life with a transplant. He was addicted to alcohol, heroin and cocaine, and got clean only after spending 11 months behind bars in Texas for drug and weapon offenses.

Asked in "David Crosby: Remember My Name" how he had managed to keep going, he answered succinctly: "No idea, man."

The co-founder of two supergroups that broadened and deepened the reach of rock music, and who, with his outspoken political pronouncements and famously outsized appetites came to symbolize the Woodstock generation's exuberance and ex-

[See **Crosby,** A7]

FRANCINE ORR Los Angeles Times

IN 2018, Kenneth Owens fell down the shaft of the elevator at the Madison Hotel. He and 17 others sued the building's owner, the AIDS Healthcare Foundation.

A bad story for every floor

Why is this building's elevator always broken?

BY LIAM DILLON, BENJAMIN ORESKES AND DOUG SMITH

For six days Richard Dever sat in his tiny fifth-floor apartment on skid row, desperate for some fresh air. But the elevator at the Madison Hotel was broken again, and Dever, 82, could not make it down the stairs.

Gaunt and short of breath from lung disease, Dever hunched on the edge of the bed, his mood darkening by the day.

"What bothers me is that I cannot get out like everybody else and enjoy the world," Dever said on the second day of his confinement.

The nearly weeklong failure in December was the third time in just over a month that the Madison's elevator was out of service for multiple days, Dever and other tenants said.

The building's owner is one of the nation's most prominent crusaders against bad landlords: the AIDS Healthcare Foundation.

In its more than five years running the Madison, elevator outages have led residents, many of whom are elderly and infirm, to sleep in the lobby, pay other tenants to carry them to their rooms

[See **Elevator,** A12]

Who leaked draft opinion on abortion?

Supreme Court says its internal investigation has failed to identify who released the controversial ruling last year. **NATION, A5**

U.S. moves to avoid debt crisis

With limit reached, the Treasury Department takes "extraordinary" steps to avoid a default. **BUSINESS, A8**

Weather
Mostly sunny and cool. L.A. Basin: 61/41. **B6**

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VISIT…

Get ready for a nasty fight over Feinstein's seat

Front-runners for an expected rare Senate opening will be more alike than different.

MARK Z. BARABAK

The waiting and seeing is over. The contest to replace Sen. Dianne Feinstein is well underway, even as her plans remain uncertain.

Rep. Katie Porter declared her candidacy last week and fellow Rep. Barbara Lee signaled her intention to run a day later. Rep. Adam B. Schiff is expected to soon follow, and beyond that more entries are expected; in California, an open U.S. Senate is just about as rare as a Dodgers World Series victory.

But regardless of how large the field turns out to be, the race will probably come down to a matter of degree.

The candidates who have surfaced differ in race and gender. Others who jump in may have different ethnic backgrounds. But each of the leading contenders will almost certainly have two important things in common: their affiliation with the Democratic Party and a shared set of fundamental political beliefs.

It's not as though "pro-life" Democrats will be running against "pro-choice" Democrats, for instance, or tree-hugging environmentalists will face "drill, baby, drill" friends of the oil industry.

"In this primary you're going to have three or four or five Democrats who all meet the test of fighting for Democratic policies and sharing Democratic values," said Rose Kapolczynski, who ran Barbara Boxer's successful 1992 Senate campaign and subsequent reelection efforts. "So how do you distinguish yourself from your fellow candidates?"

The answer is to blow up small distinctions into dirigible-size differences, manufacture disagreements and go after rivals on attributes such as demeanor, character and temperament.

"It's going to get personal," Democratic strategist Lisa Tucker predicted, "because there's not a lot of other places to go."

Strange things can happen when a race pits candidates of the same party and same political ideology against one another.

The last time California had a seriously competitive U.S. Senate contest was that 1992 race, when Boxer faced fellow Democrats Mel Levine and Leo McCarthy. It was costly and harshly negative and offers a preview of what is likely to come in the race to succeed Feinstein.

McCarthy attacked Boxer's ethics and personal finances in connection with the House banking scandal, in which members of Congress were allowed to overdraw their accounts without penalty. A TV ad showed Boxer's picture — *boing!* — bouncing across the screen. (As in bounced checks, get it?)

Levine turned on rivals with a scathing attack on crime, echoing Republican assertions about the Democratic penchant for "throwing money" at social programs and spending too much time focused on "root causes" — which was something coming from a member in good standing of Los Angeles' liberal Westside establishment.

Feinstein has yet to say whether she will run again. But with the toll age has taken and a mere pittance stashed in the 89-year-old incumbent's campaign bank account, it seems highly unlikely she'll seek reelection a sixth time.

There will probably be a Republican or two or three who enter the Senate contest, and that would be a good thing. But the likeliest outcome, given voter registration and inclination, is Democrats emerging from the state's top-two primary in March 2024 and facing each other in November.

The front-runners, starting out, appear to be Schiff and Porter, formidable fundraisers who are popular among Democratic activists. The Burbank congressman for his role in the investigation and impeachment of President Trump, and the Irvine congresswoman for her whiteboarding of corporate malefactors and social media savvy.

The most conspicuous differences between the two are stylistic: the sober, buttoned-down mien of Schiff and the assertive, elbows-flying approach of Porter.

It's those type of differences, not policy or a debate on issues, that will most likely decide the race.

If you like your politics to be uplifting and happy, with ample sides of sunshine and sweet harmony, the competition to be California's next U.S. senator will surely be disappointing. (Then again if that's how you feel, you probably decamped a long time ago for a desert island with no internet connection.)

As Kapolczynski noted, contests among same-party candidates are typically personal and negative.

"The issue differences are small and voters are cynical about politicians to begin with," she said. "And so if you can undermine their perception of a candidate's character, or whether you can trust them, that can turn people away and they'll vote for the other choice.

"Sometimes," Kapolczynski said, "the only way to win is to make your opponent a less attractive alternative."

It may be dispiriting to contemplate months of antagonistic electioneering ahead, and it's not the kind of thing they celebrate in high school civics. But that's the reality of today's politics.

If you want kindness and good cheer, there's always Disneyland.

FELIPE DANA Associated Press

ICE CORE data reveal a sharp increase in Greenland's temperatures since 1995, showing the island 2.7 degrees higher than its 20th century average. Above, a boat navigates next to icebergs near the town of Kulusuk.

Greenland is rapidly warming

Scientists expect even higher temperatures as glaciers there have melted faster recently.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A sharp spike in Greenland temperatures since 1995 showed the giant northern island 2.7 degrees higher than its 20th century average, the highest in more than 1,000 years, according to new ice core data.

Until now Greenland ice cores — a glimpse into long-running temperatures before thermometers — hadn't shown much of a clear signal of global warming on the remotest north-central part of the island, at least compared with the rest of the world.

But the ice cores also hadn't been updated since 1995. Newly analyzed cores, drilled in 2011, show a dramatic rise in temperature in the previous 15 years, according to a study in Wednesday's journal Nature.

"We keep on [seeing] rising temperatures between 1990s and 2011," said study lead author Maria Hoerhold, a glaciologist at the Alfred Wegener Institute in Germany. "We have now a clear signature of global warming."

It takes years to analyze ice core data. Hoerhold has new cores from 2019 but hasn't finished studying them yet. She expects to see continued temperature rise, as Greenland's ice sheet and glaciers have been melting faster recently.

"This is an important finding and corroborates the suspicion that the 'missing warming' in the ice cores is due to the fact that the cores end before the strong warming sets in," said climate scientist Martin Stendel of the Danish Meteorological Institute, who wasn't part of the research.

The ice cores are used to make a chart of proxy temperatures for Greenland running from the year 1000 to 2011. It shows temperatures gently sloping lower for the first 800 years, then wiggling up and down while sloping higher until a spike even higher from the 1990s on.

One scientist compared it to a hockey stick, a description used for other long-term temperature data showing climate change.

The jump in temperature after 1995 is so much larger than in pre-industrial times before the mid-19th century that there is "almost zero" chance that it is anything but human-caused climate change, Hoerhold said.

The warming spike also mirrors a sudden rise in the amount of water running off from Greenland's melting ice, the study finds.

What had been happening in Greenland is that natural weather variability, undulations because of an occasional weather system called Greenland blocking, in the past had masked human-caused climate change, Hoerhold said.

But as of about 25 years ago, the warming became too big to be hidden, she said.

Past data also showed Greenland not warming as fast as the rest of the Arctic, which is now warming four times faster than the global average. But the island appears to be catching up.

Ice core data for years showed Greenland acted a bit differently from the Arctic. That's probably because of Greenland blocking, Hoerhold said.

Other scientists said as a giant land mass Greenland was less affected by melting sea ice and other water factors compared with the rest of the Arctic, which is much more water-adjacent.

Hoerhold's team drilled five new cores near old cores so as to match established ice core records. They use the difference between two types of oxygen isotopes found in the ice to calculate temperature, using an already established formula that is checked against observed data.

Hoerhold and outside scientists said the new warming data are bad news because Greenland's ice sheet is melting. In fact, the study ends with data from 2011 and the next year had a record melt across Greenland and the island's ice loss has been on high since then, she said.

"We should be very concerned about North Greenland warming because that region has a dozen sleeping giants in the form of wide tidewater glaciers and an ice stream," said Danish Meteorological Institute ice scientist Jason Box. And when awakened, it will ramp up melt from Greenland, he said.

And that means "rising seas that threaten homes, businesses, economies and communities," said U.S. National Snow and Ice Data Center deputy lead scientist Twila Moon.

Complex issues at center of U.S.-Turkey talks

Washington wants its ally to support NATO expansion. Ankara wants F-16 warplanes.

BY TRACY WILKINSON

WASHINGTON — The United States is locked in a delicate dance with Turkey, one of its most problematic allies, that involves fighter jets, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Congress and, ultimately, the war in Ukraine.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu, in Washington this week to meet with U.S. officials, wasted no time in putting front and center his nation's demand for U.S.-made F-16 warplanes.

"We will address significant topics about bilateral defense cooperation, particularly our F-16 request," Cavusoglu said ahead of the meetings, as Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken looked on, stone-faced. "This is not only for [Turkey] but also important for NATO and for United States as well, so we expect the approval in the line with our joint strategic interest."

Administration officials last week issued an "informal notification" to Congress that a $20-billion sale of F-16s to Turkey was in the works. But the idea that approval for such a sale might be forthcoming is not widely shared at the State Department and the White House.

Powerful U.S. lawmakers are blocking new arms sales to Turkey, citing the government of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and its increasingly authoritarian turn away from democracy, its repression of dissidents and minorities, and its menacing of neighbors.

LEAH MILLIS Pool Photo

SECRETARY OF STATE Antony J. Blinken, center left, and Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu, across from Blinken, meet at the State Department.

But Turkey can block something that the U.S. and most of the West dearly want: the expansion of NATO to include Sweden and Finland.

As a member of NATO, Turkey has veto power over allowing new countries to join. The 30-nation alliance has to approve any such expansion unanimously.

Long neutral, Sweden and Finland began to see NATO protection as urgent following Russia's invasion of Ukraine nearly a year ago. The two countries are within a missile strike of the Kremlin, should President Vladimir Putin make good on his threats to retaliate against pro-NATO sentiment in his perceived backyard.

Turkey's NATO allies are in a difficult position: The government in Ankara has insisted that the two Nordic nations stop offering refuge to Kurdish rebels opposed to the Erdogan government. And Erdogan has branded the opponents as terrorists who must be arrested and punished.

The Biden administration remains "deeply concerned" over the abuse of free expression and other human rights in Turkey, officials say, but is inclined to eventually go ahead with the sale.

"When it comes to the F-16s, President Biden said that as a general matter, he believes that we should sell Turkey the F-16 jets and modernize their existing fleet as well," State Department spokesman Ned Price said.

But, he added, "this is a process that involves Congress, of course, and ... I don't think I'm betraying any secrets, because our partners on the Hill have been quite vocal about this as well ... there are strong opinions on the Hill."

Those voices are led by Sen. Robert Menendez (D-N.J.), who chairs the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and in theory has the power to stop arms deals with foreign nations.

"President Erdogan continues to undermine international law, disregard human rights and democratic norms, and engage in alarming and destabilizing behavior in Turkey and against neighboring NATO allies," Menendez said in a statement late last week, after news of the informal notification of the sale to Turkey circulated.

"Until Erdogan ceases his threats, improves his human rights record at home — including by releasing journalists and political opposition — and begins to act like a trusted ally should, I will not approve this sale," Menendez added.

There are ways Biden can get around a congressional block on weapons transfers, through executive action or other steps, but State Department officials appear reluctant to pursue that course.

After his meetings in Washington, Cavusoglu spoke to Turkish reporters and acknowledged that the Sweden-Finland NATO question was looming over the talks but said it should not be a condition of the F-16 sale.

"What is important here is whether the administration will be decisive or not," Cavusoglu told Turkish state TV broadcaster TRT.

"The administration should not waste such an important deal between two allies just because one person or a few people are blocking it," he added. "It should not bow down."

Turkey is also a troublesome ally for the U.S. because of its friendliness to Russia, including expansive trade, the pursuit of arms deals with Moscow and an alliance with Russian forces in Syria. Turkey's acquisition of an air defense system from Russia six years ago led to Western sanctions amid fears Moscow could use the access to spy on NATO assets.

But Turkey's relationship with Russia also gives it a role in potential diplomacy to end Putin's war in Ukraine. Washington credits Ankara with opening up a corridor through the Black Sea to allow Ukraine to export millions of tons of grain to world markets despite a Russian blockade. At the same time, Erdogan has refused to join the West's imposition of tough sanctions on Moscow for its attacks on Ukraine.

French march against retirement age hike

Unions decry plan for state to pay pensions when workers turn 64, a two-year delay.

By Sylvie Corbet and Jade Le Deley

Lewis Joly Associated Press

PEOPLE turn out in Paris on Thursday to protest French President Emmanuel Macron's proposed pension change. Macron's government says the plan is the only way to keep the state pension system solvent in a country with an aging population and growing life expectancy.

PARIS — At least 1.1 million people protested on the streets of Paris and other French cities Thursday amid nationwide strikes against plans to raise the retirement age, but President Emmanuel Macron insisted he would press ahead with the proposed pension changes.

Emboldened by the mass show of resistance, French unions announced new strikes and protests Jan. 31, vowing to try to get the government to back down on plans to move up the standard retirement age to 64 from 62. Macron says the measure — a central pillar of his second term — is needed to keep the pension system financially viable, but unions say it threatens hard-fought worker rights.

Out of the country for a French-Spanish summit in Barcelona, Macron acknowledged the public discontent but said that "we must do that reform" to "save" French pensions.

"We will do it with respect, in a spirit of dialogue but also determination and responsibility," he added.

As Macron spoke, riot police pushed back against some protesters throwing projectiles on the sidelines of the largely peaceful Paris march. Other minor incidents briefly flared up, leading officers to use tear gas.

Paris police said that 38 people were detained as people thronged the streets of the capital despite freezing rain, the crowd so big that it took hours to reach their destination. Retirees and college students joined the diverse crowd, united in their fear and anger over the proposal.

In a country with an aging population and growing life expectancy and where everyone receives a state pension, Macron's government says the change is the only way to keep the system solvent.

Unions propose a tax on the wealthy or more payroll contributions from employers to finance the pension system instead.

Polls suggest most French people oppose Macron's plan, and Thursday was the first public reaction to it. Strikes severely disrupted transportation, schools and other public services, and more than 200 rallies were staged around the country.

The Interior Ministry said more than 1.1 million people protested, including 80,000 in Paris. Unions said more than 2 million people took part nationwide, and 400,000 in Paris.

Big crowds also turned out for protests against previous efforts at retirement change, notably during Macron's first term and under then-President Nicolas Sarkozy in 2010. But none of those drew more than 1 million people, according to government estimates.

Jean Paul Cachina, 56, a worker in human resources, joined the march in the French capital — a first for him.

"I am not here for myself," he said. "I am here to defend the youth and workers doing demanding jobs. I work in the construction industry sector and I'm a firsthand witness of the suffering of employees."

Many young people were among the Paris crowd, including high school students.

Nathan Arsac, 19, a student and UNEF union member, said: "I'm afraid of what's going to happen next. Losing our social achievements could happen so fast. I'm scared of the future when I'll be older and have to retire."

Sylvie Bechard, a 59-year-old nurse, said that she joined the march because "we, healthcare workers, are physically exhausted."

"The only thing we have is to demonstrate, and to block the economy of the country," she added.

The economic cost of Thursday's strikes wasn't immediately clear, but protracted walkouts could hobble the economy just as France is struggling against inflation and trying to boost growth.

Police unions opposed to the retirement change also took part in the protests, while those on duty sought to contain scattered unrest.

Most train services around France were halted, including some international connections, and about 20% of flights out of Paris' Orly Airport were canceled.

The Education Ministry said more than a third of teachers were on strike, and national electricity company EDF announced that power supplies were substantially reduced Thursday amid the strikes.

The Palace of Versailles was closed Thursday, while the Eiffel Tower warned about potential disruptions and the Louvre Museum closed some exhibition rooms.

Philippe Martinez, secretary general of the hard-left CGT union, urged Macron to "listen to the street."

Laurent Berger, head of the more moderate CFDT union, called the proposal "unfair" and said Thursday's show of resistance was a warning sign.

Many French workers expressed mixed feelings about the government's plan and pointed to the complexity of the pension system.

Quentin Coelho, 27, a Red Cross employee, believed he had to work Thursday despite understanding "most of the strikers' demands." Coelho said he fears that the government will keep raising the retirement age, so he is already saving money for his pension.

Others worry the change will hit harder for low-income workers, who have a shorter lifespan than the wealthy.

"It's a social issue. Do you want to retire sick, broken and even [in some cases] dead? Or do you want to enjoy life?" asked Fabien Villedieu, a 45-year-old railway worker.

French Labor Minister Olivier Dussopt acknowledged "concerns" prompted by the pension plans but said the government rejected other options involving raising taxes — which he said would hurt the economy and cost jobs — or reducing pensions.

The French government is formally presenting the pension bill on Monday and it will head to Parliament next month. Its success will depend in part on the scale and duration of the strikes and protests.

Most opposition parties, including the left and the far right, are strongly against the plan. Macron's centrist alliance lost its parliamentary majority last year, yet still has the biggest group at the National Assembly, where it hopes to ally with the Republicans, a conservative party, to approve the pension changes.

Under the proposal, workers must have been employed for at least 43 years to be entitled to a full pension. For those who do not fulfill that condition, such as many women who interrupted their careers to raise children or those who studied for a long time and started working late, the retirement age would remain unchanged at 67.

Those who started working before age 20 and workers with major health issues would be allowed early retirement.

Protracted strikes met Macron's last effort to raise the retirement age in 2019. He withdrew it after the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

Retirement rules vary widely from country to country, making direct comparisons difficult. The official retirement age in the U.S. is now 67, and countries across Europe have been raising pension ages as populations grow older and fertility rates drop.

But opponents of Macron's proposal note that, under the French system, people are already required to work more years overall than in some neighboring countries to receive a full pension. The plan is also seen by many as endangering the welfare state that's central to French society.

Corbet and Le Deley write for the Associated Press. AP writers Alexander Turnbull, Oleg Cetinic and Angela Charlton contributed to this report.

Germany faces pressure to send tanks to Ukraine

Zelensky bemoans lack of weaponry as Western allies confer on how to assist Kyiv.

By Geir Moulson and Jamey Keaten

Michael Sohn Associated Press

SINCE THE U.K. announced last week that it will send Challenger 2 tanks to Ukraine, Berlin has faced increasing calls to supply Leopard 2 tanks, above.

BERLIN — Germany faced mounting pressure to supply battle tanks to Kyiv and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky aired frustration about not obtaining enough weaponry as Western allies conferred Thursday on how best to support Ukraine nearly 11 months after Russia's invasion.

Since the U.K. announced last week that it will send Challenger 2 tanks, Berlin has faced increasing calls to supply Leopard 2 tanks or at least clear the way for others, such as Poland, to deliver German-made Leopards from their own stock.

Germany's new defense minister, Boris Pistorius, left open whether that will happen and under what conditions after meeting on his first day in office with U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd J. Austin III. Pistorius told ARD television he was "pretty sure we will get a decision on this in the coming days, but I can't yet tell you today how it will look."

Austin will host a regular coordination meeting of top defense officials from Ukraine's Western allies at the United States' Ramstein Air Base in Germany on Friday.

Speaking by video link on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum's annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland, Zelensky offered a veiled critique of major supporters such as Germany and the U.S. that have hesitated over sending tanks.

He bemoaned a "lack of specific weaponry."

Speaking through an interpreter, Zelensky said: "There are times where we shouldn't hesitate or we shouldn't compare when someone says, 'I will give tanks if someone else will also share his tanks.' "

Ukraine's foreign and defense ministers said that the Challenger 2 tanks Britain plans to supply, while welcome, are "not sufficient to achieve operational goals."

"We guarantee that we will use these weapons responsibly and exclusively for the purposes of protecting the territorial integrity of Ukraine within internationally recognized borders," Dmytro Kuleba and Oleksii Reznikov said, appealing to Germany and other countries that use the German-made Leopard 2 to join an "international tank coalition."

For months, Ukraine has sought heavier vehicles such as the Leopard and U.S. Abrams tanks, but Western leaders have been treading carefully.

Germany has been particularly in focus in recent days. Critics, some inside Germany's governing coalition, have long complained of Chancellor Olaf Scholz's perceived hesitancy to take the next step when it comes to weapons deliveries.

Scholz has been wary of such pressure, insisting that Germany won't go it alone and pointing to a need to ensure that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization doesn't become a party to the war against Russia; every time, however, Berlin has eventually taken a step forward. Scholz has portrayed his cautious weighing of each step as a virtue.

In Davos on Wednesday, the chancellor avoided directly answering a question about Leopard tanks, saying that Germany would remain one of Ukraine's top weapons suppliers and that "we are never doing something just by ourselves, but together with others — especially the United States."

German officials have conveyed their reluctance to allow allies to give their German-made Leopards to Ukraine unless the U.S. also sends Abrams tanks, according to a U.S. official who was not authorized to comment and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Asked whether Germany would deliver Leopards only if Washington supplies the Abrams, Pistorius replied that he wasn't "aware of such a package." But he said that aid must continue to be "coordinated" and that it's important for Germany to proceed "shoulder to shoulder with the Americans."

An upcoming package of U.S. military aid is expected to include nearly 100 Stryker combat vehicles and at least 50 Bradley armored vehicles — but not the Abrams, which U.S. officials say has complex maintenance needs and may not be the best fit.

"The maintenance and the high cost that it would take to maintain an Abrams — it just doesn't make sense to provide that to the Ukrainians at this moment," spokeswoman Sabrina Singh said at a Pentagon briefing Thursday.

Some eastern NATO allies have provided Soviet-era T-72 tanks to Ukrainian forces, but officials acknowledge that supplies of Soviet-era equipment with which Ukrainian forces are already familiar are limited.

Senior officials from Britain, Poland, the Baltic nations and other European countries met in Estonia on Thursday before the Ramstein gathering.

U.K. Defense Secretary Ben Wallace said his country would send at least three batteries of AS-90 artillery, armored vehicles, thousands of rounds of ammunition and 600 Brimstone missiles, as well as the squadron of Challenger 2 tanks.

Wallace told the Associated Press that the decision to send battle tanks was a "natural progression" of U.K. military support for Ukraine and was discussed with the U.S.

"If you're going to donate armored personnel carriers, you need to complement that with tanks," he said. "We had some tanks that we thought could do that."

Wallace acknowledged that the Challenger shipment "is not the single magic ingredient" for Ukraine, which has said it needs 300 tanks, among other weapons, to expel Russian forces. But he voiced hope that it will complement Bradley armored vehicles the U.S. is already supplying and help "lead the way" for others to send tanks.

Estonia announced its largest military aid package to date, including howitzers, ammunition, artillery support equipment and grenade launchers.

Elsewhere, Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson said his country has decided to send up to 50 Swedish-made combat vehicles, a shoulder-fired anti-tank missile system and the Archer artillery system to Ukraine.

And Denmark plans to donate 19 French-made Caesar self-propelled howitzers.

Moulson and Keaten write for the Associated Press.

Post-Brexit push to shed EU laws makes headway

Prime minister's plan to remove remaining legislation advances in the British Parliament.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON — First came Brexit. Now comes Britain's bonfire of European laws.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak is pushing ahead with a contentious plan to remove all remaining European Union laws from Britain's statute book by the end of 2023, despite opponents' claims that the move is rash and unworkable.

Thousands of pieces of EU law were cut-and-pasted into U.K. legislation when Britain left the bloc in 2020 after decades of membership, to ensure continuity for people and businesses. A bill debated Wednesday in Parliament would automatically remove all of them at the end of the year unless they are explicitly replaced or retained. Financial services rules are exempt from the cull.

"I cannot stress enough the importance of achieving this deadline, the deadline of 2023," Business Minister Nusrat Ghani told lawmakers in the House of Commons.

"Retained EU law was never intended to sit on the statute book indefinitely."

Opponents argue that reviewing such a huge mass of law is a mammoth undertaking that will suck up the time of civil servants and lead to rules being rewritten without proper parliamentary scrutiny.

Conservative lawmaker David Davis, a firm supporter of Brexit, said Parliament was being asked "to sign a blank check, one might almost say a pig in a poke, because we do not know even how many pieces of legislation are going through on the back of this, let alone what they are."

"It's not democratic, but it's also going to be inefficient and possibly incompetent," Davis said.

Critics also worry that safeguards for workers' rights and environmental standards will get eroded in the rush to discard the EU's way of doing things.

Jo Pike, chief executive of the Scottish Wildlife Trust, said the bill would "wipe away decades of environmental and other protections with potentially far-reaching unintended consequences."

Former Prime Minister Liz Truss introduced the bill during her ill-fated seven weeks in office last year. Sunak, her successor, decided to keep it despite calls from the opposition — and some within his governing Conservative Party — to scrap the bill or move the end date to 2026.

Some Conservative lawmakers want to amend the bill to give Parliament more explicit say over which laws are thrown out or amended.

Jill Rutter, a senior fellow at the Institute for Government think tank, said Sunak's government appeared to hope that "this primal scream of legislation will finally flush the missing Brexit dividends out from the cover of bureaucratic inertia" and revive the British economy.

But, Rutter wrote in the Financial Times, it was "more likely to blow up in his government's face than deliver noticeable benefits."

The bill passed its final hurdle Wednesday in the House of Commons, where the Conservatives have a large majority. It was sent to the House of Lords for more scrutiny and likely opposition.

ZBIGNIEW LESZEK GRZYWACZEWSKI POLIN Museum

THIS PHOTO, dated April 20, 1943, and taken by Polish firefighter Zbigniew Leszek Grzywaczewski, shows Jewish people from the Warsaw Ghetto being led to a holding area before being sent to a death camp.

Photos emerge of 1943 uprising

Pictures were taken secretly as Polish Jews in Warsaw Ghetto resisted the Nazis.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WARSAW — Warsaw's Jewish history museum this week presented a group of photographs taken in secret during the Warsaw Ghetto uprising of 1943, some of which have never been seen before, that were recently discovered in a family collection.

The POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews described the discovery of negatives with some 20 never-seen images as an important discovery.

The photos were taken inside the Warsaw Ghetto by a Polish firefighter, Zbigniew Leszek Grzywaczewski, as the Nazi Germans were brutally crushing the uprising of 1943.

As the Germans burned down the ghetto, they called in Polish firefighters to keep the flames from engulfing nearby buildings outside the ghetto.

The museum's historians said that the value of Grzywaczewski's pictures lies in their being the only known images from the ghetto uprising that were not taken by the German forces, and which therefore were not shot with the intention of serving Nazi propaganda.

Grzywaczewski, then a 23-year-old whose family members were risking their lives to save Jews, took his camera into the ghetto and secretly photographed Jews being led to Umschlagplatz, the holding area where the occupying German forces held them before their transfer to the Treblinka death camp. The images also show burning buildings.

Grzywaczwski's son, Maciej Grzywaczewski, recently found negatives with the images in the collection of his father, who died in 1993. He said he became very emotional when he found them.

Some of his father's other images, including photos capturing the Jews being deported, are held by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington.

POLIN says the discovery adds more pictures to the expulsion sequence. Furthermore, the ones in Washington are prints that have been cropped, with the newly discovered negatives offering more details.

Some of the photos are blurred or not framed well, indicating that Grzywaczewski, who was an avid photographer, was taking them surreptitiously.

The newly discovered images will be included in an exhibition at the POLIN museum called "Around Us a Sea of Fire," opening on April 18, the eve of the 80th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising's outbreak.

It began on April 19, 1943, after German troops and police entered the ghetto to deport its surviving inhabitants.

Some 750 young Jewish fighters armed with pistols and other light arms attacked a German force more than three times larger. In their last testaments they said they knew they were doomed but wanted to die at a time and place of their own choosing.

In the end, the fighters held out nearly a month, longer than some German-invaded countries did.

It was largest uprising by Jews during World War II and the first significant urban revolt against the German occupation in Europe. By May 16, 1943, the Germans had crushed the uprising and banished surviving ghetto residents to concentration and death camps.

Carbon removal efforts moving too slowly, study finds

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BERLIN — Researchers say efforts to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere aren't being scaled up fast enough and can't be relied on to meet crucial climate goals.

A report published Thursday by scientists in Europe and the United States found that new methods of removal currently account for only 0.1% of the 2 billion metric tons sucked from the atmosphere each year. That compares with roughly 37 billion tons of annual emissions.

Most current greenhouse gas removal is achieved by planting trees and managing forests and other natural carbon sinks, which themselves are under considerable threat.

New carbon removal technologies include so-called direct air capture, in which carbon dioxide is sucked from the atmosphere and stored underground. Another method, known as biochar, involves burning plant matter and then burying the carbon-heavy waste.

Both have been heavily criticized by environmentalists even as they attract considerable funding from governments and companies seeking solutions to the climate crisis. Developing countries argue that their contribution to global carbon removal — mostly in the form of forests and land management — are equally important and deserve greater recognition.

The study concludes that novel carbon removal needs to increase thirtyfold by 2030 to achieve the emissions reductions required to keep global temperature rise below 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit and ideally no more than 2.7 degrees by the end of the century.

Achieving "net zero" emissions by midcentury — a goal many countries are aiming for and experts say is necessary to meet the targets agreed in the 2015 Paris climate accord — would require an increase in carbon dioxide removal by a factor of 1,300, and few countries have realistic plans for doing so, the authors said.

"We are really lagging behind significantly when it comes to carbon removal," said study co-author Jan Minx of the Berlin-based Mercator Research Institute on Global Commons and Climate Change.

"If we want a robust strategy to achieve the Paris climate goals, then we need to restrict dependence on carbon removal ... through rapid and far-reaching emissions reductions," he said. "But at the same time the expansion and development of carbon removal methods needs to be boosted."

Oliver Geden of the German Institute for International and Security Affairs, who also contributed to the report, said natural means of carbon removal, such as reforestation, are currently more cost effective than artificial methods. But there are limits to how much land can be devoted to forests, and rising global temperatures increase the risk that carbon stored that way could be released again, such as through wildfires.

He noted the rapid rise of solar and wind power plants as examples for how new technologies could have a measurable impact on curbing climate change.

The study authors say they plan to regularly publish a "State of Carbon Dioxide Removal" report.

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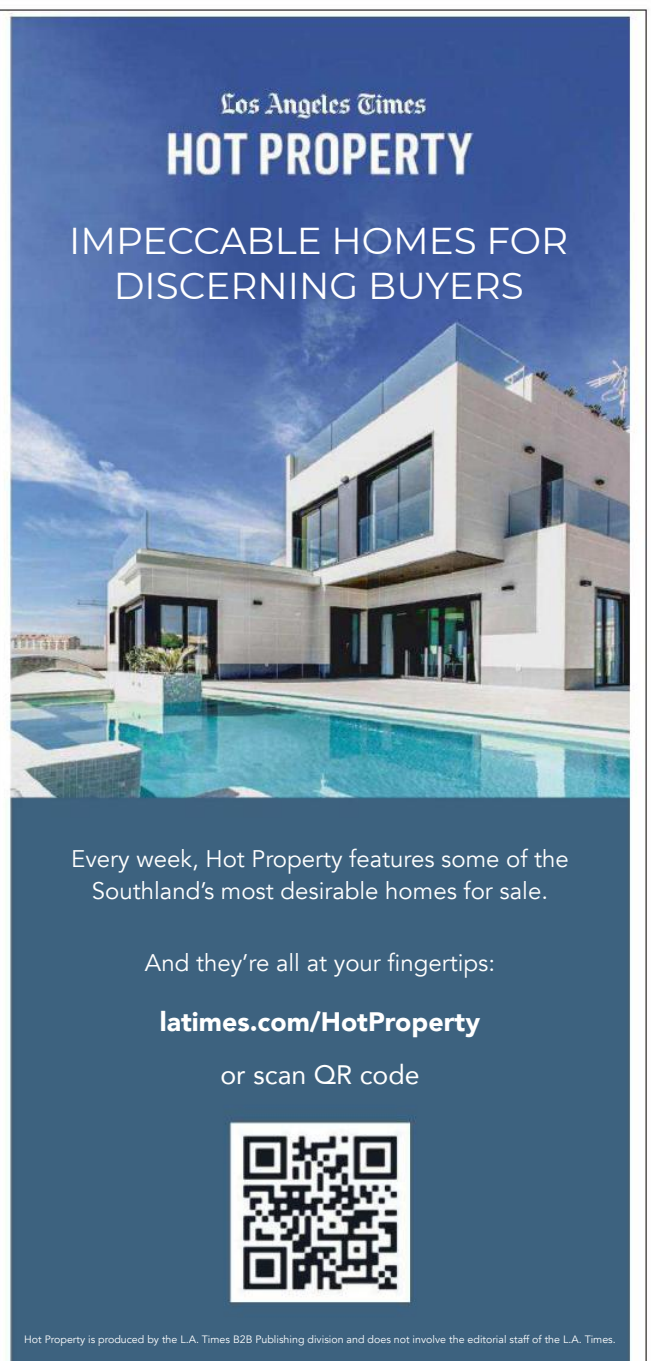
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BRIAN VAN DER BRUG Los Angeles Times

IMMIGRATION AND Customs Enforcement posted migrants' names, birthdates, nationalities and detention locations, potentially putting them at risk, advocates say. Above, an ICE agent in Montebello in 2017.

Nearly half of 6,200 migrants in ICE data breach are released

U.S. will help affected deportees who wish to return and seek asylum, officials say.

BY HAMED ALEAZIZ

Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials have released nearly 3,000 immigrants whose personal information, including birthdates and detention locations, was inadvertently posted online by the government, according to U.S. officials.

In late November, officials accidentally posted to the agency's website the names, birthdates, nationalities and detention locations of 6,252 immigrants who claimed to be fleeing torture and persecution. Immigrant advocates criticized the disclosure, saying it could put people at risk.

ICE will not deport any immigrants affected by the disclosure until they have a chance to raise the issue in immigration court, officials said. But more than 100 immigrants whose information was leaked already had been deported by the time the breach was discovered. Another group — fewer than 10 people, officials said — was deported shortly after the data leak but before those migrants were notified. The agency is willing to help those deportees who wish to return to the U.S. and seek asylum, officials added.

Many immigrants who seek safety in the U.S. fear that gangs, governments or individuals back home will find out that they did so and retaliate against them or their families. To mitigate that risk, a federal regulation generally forbids the release of personal information of people seeking asylum and other protections without approval by top Homeland Security officials.

"Although inadvertent, ICE put lives at risk through this data breach. The commitments ICE has made to those impacted will go a significant way toward mitigating the harm done, but only if ICE is diligent and transparent in making good on its promises," said Heidi Altman, director of policy at the National Immigrant Justice Center, an immigrant advocacy organization.

The agency should take more proactive action, however, Altman said, and guarantee the safe return of the immigrants already deported so they can make new claims for asylum.

Curtis Morrison, an immigration lawyer in California, said he is planning to file a lawsuit on behalf of more than a dozen immigrant detainees who claim the disclosure put them in danger.

The agency's "actions are not sufficient to mitigate the harm of ICE's data breach," Morrison said in an email Thursday.

ICE's disclosure of the more than 6,000 names triggered a massive effort by the agency to investigate the causes of the error and reduce the risk of retaliation against immigrants whose information was exposed.

The agency has been contacting immigrants whose information was posted online, including several hundred people who already had been released from custody by the time the information was posted.

The agency mistakenly published the data during a routine update of its website Nov. 28. Human Rights First notified ICE officials about the mistake, and the agency quickly deleted the data. The file was posted to a page where ICE regularly publishes detention statistics. The information was up for about five hours.

"Though unintentional, this release of information is a breach of policy and the agency is investigating the incident and taking all corrective actions necessary," an ICE spokesperson said in a statement.

Thus far, about 2,900 immigrants named in the leak have been released from custody. An additional 2,200 still in custody will have their cases reviewed for potential release.

ICE officials will allow some immigrants affected by the data disclosure to seek asylum even if they would not normally have been eligible. The agency will not oppose efforts to reopen cases of immigrants affected by the leak.

In December, the Department of Homeland Security inadvertently tipped off the Cuban government that some of the immigrants the agency sought to deport to the island nation had asked the U.S. for protection from persecution or torture.

A Homeland Security official communicating with the Cuban government about deportation flights to the country "unintentionally" indicated that some of the 103 Cubans who could have been placed on a flight had been affected by the late November data breach, ICE officials told Congress in December.

The Homeland Security official did not name any specific individuals. But telling Cuba that some of the potential deportees had been affected by the ICE leak amounted to confirming that they had sought shelter in the U.S. Every person whose information was leaked had sought U.S. protection, and the leak was widely covered in U.S. media.

None of the 103 Cubans have been removed, and ICE officials said that about 90 have been released from U.S. custody as of early January, agency officials said this week.

In December, several members of Congress, including Reps. Norma Torres (D-Pomona) and Nanette Diaz Barragán (D-San Pedro), sent a letter to ICE leadership demanding answers on how the initial leak happened.

"We believe that ICE's failure to comply with simple regulations to protect asylum seekers have potentially endangered the lives of these vulnerable individuals and their families and urge you to take immediate action to ensure the privacy of this and other sensitive information held by the agency," the letter stated.

"We are deeply troubled by this news because federal law mandates that the information of people seeking asylum is to be kept confidential," the letter said. "Several of us frequently receive visits from individuals risking life and livelihood to help their communities thrive in the face of repressive regimes. Some of these courageous individuals go on to seek asylum in the United States — and it is unacceptable to put their information into the hands of bad actors."

Supreme Court says it can't find source of leak

97 employees were interviewed in inquiry related to a draft abortion opinion.

BY DAVID G. SAVAGE

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court said Thursday it has failed to solve the mystery of who leaked its draft opinion last May in the pending abortion case that resulted in overturning Roe vs. Wade.

The leak of the high-profile decision is one of the biggest breaches in court history.

In a statement, the court said Gail Curley, its marshal, interviewed 97 people who worked at the court and had access to draft opinions, and then re-interviewed several of them. But she could not determine who copied the draft opinion and gave it to Politico.

"The Marshal's team performed additional forensic analysis and conducted multiple follow-up interviews of certain employees. But the team has to date been unable to identify a person responsible by a preponderance of the evidence," the court said.

The leaked draft confirmed what many had already suspected at the time. Five conservatives led by Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. had agreed to overturn the right to abortion established in 1973 and allow states to prohibit some or all such procedures.

The day after the unprecedented leak, Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. confirmed the draft opinion was authentic, and he said the breach would not affect the handling of the decision.

In late June, the court issued the 5-4 decision in the Mississippi abortion case, and its opinion closely matched the draft.

The justices said they were shocked and surprised by the leak, and they remain angry over what they described in Thursday's statement as "an extraordinary betrayal of trust" and a "grave assault on the judicial process."

Although the justices often argue back and forth when cases are heard in the court, they insist on strict confidentiality when they are writing and revising opinions.

Law clerks are hired for one year and are required to promise they will maintain the confidentiality of these internal debates.

The marshal's report hinted that she may suspect one or more people were involved in the leak, but lacked evidence to prove that. She also said the COVID-19 pandemic may have played a role because employees were working from home.

"If a court employee disclosed the draft opinion, that person brazenly violated a system that was built fundamentally on trust with limited safeguards to regulate and constrain access to very sensitive information," she wrote. "The pandemic and resulting expansion of the ability to work from home, as well as gaps in the court's security policies, created an environment where it was too easy to remove sensitive information from the building and the court's IT networks, increasing the risk of both deliberate and accidental disclosures of court sensitive information."

Former Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said he had been asked to independently evaluate the court's internal inquiry, and he pronounced it a "thorough investigation."

The court said it has not closed the inquiry.

Investigators "continue to review and process some electronic data that has been collected and a few other inquiries remain pending. To the extent that additional investigation yields new evidence or leads, the investigators will pursue them," it said.

JACQUELYN MARTIN Associated Press

A PROTEST outside the Supreme Court in May. The justices said they remain angry about the leak.

Florida blocks African American studies in high school

Content of Advanced Placement course is contrary to state law, education officials say.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis' administration has blocked a new Advanced Placement course on African American studies from being taught in high schools, saying it violates state law and is historically inaccurate.

The state education department rejected the program in a letter last week to the College Board, which oversees AP classes.

Florida education officials did not specify what content the state found objectionable but said, "As presented, the content of this course is inexplicably contrary to Florida law and significantly lacks educational value."

"In the future, should College Board be willing to come back to the table with lawful, historically accurate content, [the education department] will always be willing to reopen the discussion," the letter continued.

In a statement, the College Board said, "Like all new AP courses, AP African American Studies is undergoing a rigorous, multi-year pilot phase, collecting feedback from teachers, students, scholars and policymakers."

"The process of piloting and revising course frameworks is a standard part of any new AP course, and frameworks often change significantly as a result," the statement read.

The College Board website describes the course as interdisciplinary, touching on literature, arts, humanities, political science, geography and science. The pilot program is debuting at 60 schools across the country before it expands to additional schools. The organization has been working on constructing the course for more than a decade, according to its website.

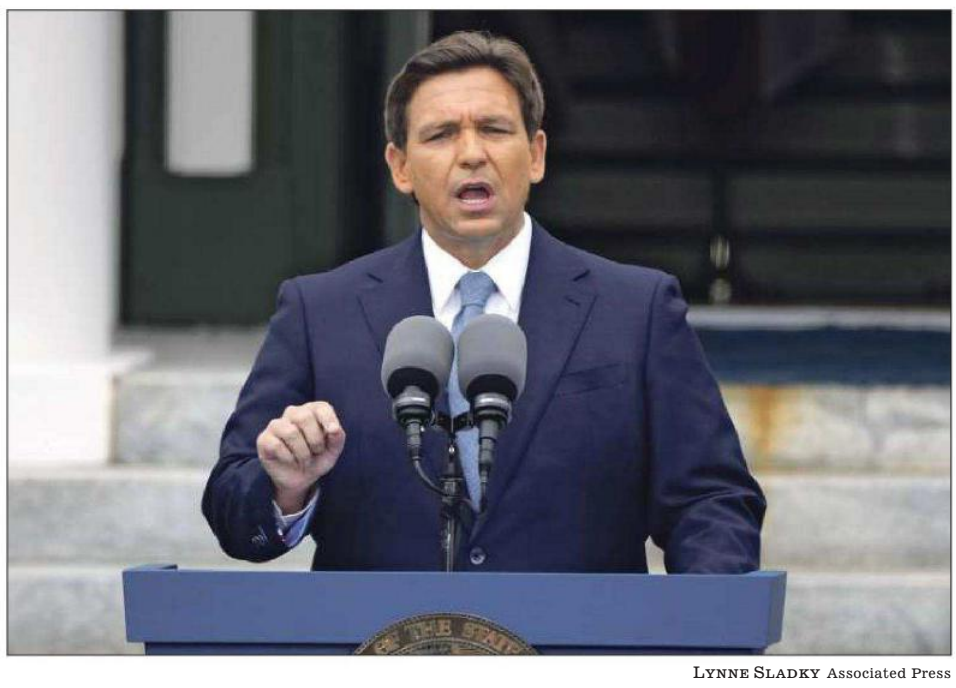
DeSantis, a potential 2024 GOP presidential candidate, has opposed what he calls liberal ideologies in schools, including lessons on critical race theory, a framework taught at some universities that examines systemic racism, and which has become a target of conservatives.

Last year the governor signed legislation dubbed the Stop WOKE Act that restricts certain race-based conversations and analysis in schools and businesses. The law bars instruction that says members of one race are inherently racist or should feel guilt for past actions committed by others of the same race, among other things.

More recently the governor's budget office called on state colleges to submit spending information on programs related to diversity, equity and inclusion and critical race theory, raising concerns of potential funding cuts.

Sharon Courtney, a high school teacher in Peekskill, N.Y., teaching the African American studies course, said her students were "shocked" to learn Florida blocked the class. She described it as a factual African history course that also details what Africans experienced upon their arrival in North America.

"There's nothing objectionable; it's history that hasn't been traditionally taught in the United States in a K-through-12 setting," she said, "but it's also history that once known and understood could change race relations and improve them."



LYNNE SLADKY Associated Press

GOV. Ron DeSantis has opposed what he calls liberal ideologies in Florida schools, including lessons about America's history of racism widely taught elsewhere.

'There's nothing objectionable; it's history that hasn't been traditionally taught ... in a K-through-12 setting.'

— SHARON COURTNEY, who teaches the African American studies course in high school in New York

Charges expected in 'Rust' shooting

['Rust,' from A1]
deal to accept a misdemeanor charge of negligent use of a deadly weapon.

New Mexico's 1st Judicial Dist. Atty. Mary Carmack-Altwies announced the charges Thursday, nearly 15 months after Baldwin is alleged to have fired the live round from his prop gun, unaware that the Colt .45 revolver contained live ammunition. Actual bullets are forbidden from film sets; however, investigators later found several other lead bullets mingled with inert dummy rounds.

"After a thorough review of the evidence and the laws of the state of New Mexico, I have determined that there is sufficient evidence to file criminal charges against Alec Baldwin and other members of the 'Rust' film crew," Carmack-Altwies said. "On my watch, no one is above the law, and everyone deserves justice."

"We support the charges, will fully cooperate with this prosecution, and fervently hope the justice system works to protect the public and hold accountable those who break the law," said attorney Brian J. Panish, who represents the Hutchins family.

Gutierrez Reed's attorneys, Jason Bowles and Todd J. Bullion, called the investigation "flawed" and said they "intend to bring the full truth to light and believe Hannah will be exonerated of wrongdoing by a jury."

A series of lapses on the low-budget production led to the shooting, which ignited calls in Hollywood for producers to improve safety conditions on sets.

Baldwin was one of the producers of "Rust." The 64-year-old Hollywood star — who achieved acclaim for performances on NBC's "Saturday Night Live" and "30 Rock," as well as such movies as "Glengarry Glen Ross" and "The Hunt for Red October" — could now face a criminal trial or accept a plea bargain.

"This decision distorts Halyna Hutchins' tragic death and represents a terrible miscarriage of justice," said Baldwin's attorney, Luke Nikas of Quinn Emanuel, adding that his client "relied on the professionals with whom he worked, who assured him the gun did not have live rounds. We will fight these charges, and we will win."

The decision comes three months after Baldwin and the film's other producers struck a proposed settlement agreement with Hutchins' family to end the wrongful-death civil lawsuit the family filed early last year. The cinematographer's widower, Matthew Hutchins, called his spouse's death "a terrible accident."

Thell Reed

HANNAH GUTIERREZ REED with her armorer father, Thell Reed, on a set. She was armorer and props assistant for "Rust" and is expected to be charged with a felony. Her lawyers call the investigation "flawed."

Under the proposed deal, the movie's production could resume this year.

Baldwin has long maintained his innocence, saying in televised interviews that gun safety wasn't his responsibility and that he did not pull the trigger.

Reports prepared by FBI analysts in Virginia, however, cast doubt on that claim, saying a reproduction of a vintage Colt .45 "functioned normally when tested in the laboratory."

The FBI report also noted that, in order for the revolver to fire, the trigger would have been pulled.

"This is problematic for Baldwin because he has insisted that he did not pull the trigger," said Beverly Hills entertainment attorney Mitra Ahouraian.

Baldwin has placed blame on Gutierrez Reed and Halls, saying they didn't do their jobs. The armorer, property master and assistant director are typically responsible for gun safety.

"All my career, without incident, I've relied on the safety experts [on set] to declare the gun safe and never had a problem," Baldwin said in 2022 at the Boulder International Film Festival. "And [then,] this happened."

That defense might fall short, experts said.

"Regardless of what the practice may be in the entertainment industry, and regardless of what the protocols are on Hollywood sets, that's not the law," Ahouraian said. "The gun was in his hands. And if there's any possibility that you are handling something that could harm someone, then you have an obligation to handle it safely."

"Everyone in that chain of custody had some responsibility," said Joshua Kastenberg, a law professor at the University of New Mexico. "The 'it's not my job' defense just doesn't fly."

Filming of "Rust," which had a $7-million production budget, was supposed to span 21 days — an ambitious timeline for a period piece, film experts have said.

Baldwin was playing a grizzled outlaw, Harland Rust, who was on the run with his grandson, who accidentally shot a rancher dead in 1880s Kansas.

After lunch on that fateful day, Souza and Hutchins were lining up camera angles as Baldwin practiced a cross-draw maneuver inside the old wooden church at the Bonanza Creek Ranch, a popular location for movie productions.

Sitting in a makeshift pew about four feet from Hutchins and Souza, Baldwin allegedly pulled the Pietta Colt .45 pistol from his holster and pointed it in the direction of the camera. The gun went off. Hutchins was standing next to the camera and Souza was behind her.

Halls — who was the "Rust" safety officer on set — had told Baldwin the gun was "cold," meaning that it did not contain live ammunition, according to sheriff's records.

The gun contained at least one live bullet and dummy rounds, which contained no gunpowder. Such bullets are inert but look nearly identical to a real bullet when a camera peers down the barrel of a revolver.

If the rounds had been thoroughly checked, Gutierrez Reed, Halls or others should have seen that at least one lacked the small hole or indentation that differentiates so-called dummies from actual lead bullets.

They also would have noticed that the live round didn't make the signature rattling sound that reveals that only a BB — and no gunpowder — was contained inside.

Gutierrez Reed previously had acknowledged that she had loaded the gun but didn't realize actual bullets were contained in a new box of ammunition that arrived on set that morning.

She later told sheriff's detectives that although she checked Baldwin's gun before the unscheduled rehearsal in the wooden church, she "didn't really check it too much after lunch" because the weapon had been locked in a safe during the crew's lunch break.

Much of the camera crew had walked off the job hours before the fatal shooting after complaining to producers about alleged inattention to safety and a refusal to pay for nearby lodging for cameramen.

Tensions flared over two accidental weapons discharges less than a week before Hutchins' death, including when property master Sarah Zachry accidentally fired a weapon to be used by one of the actors, although she was not injured in the incident.

Additionally, rifts had developed within the movie's small props crew over issues of workload.

Gutierrez Reed acknowledged that she was struggling to perform two jobs — armorer and props assistant. In addition to serving as the armorer in charge of guns and gun safety, she was supposed to assist Zachry with the other props. In text message exchanges with production managers before the fatal shooting, Gutierrez Reed protested her workload, saying she was being stretched too thin.

A production manager had scolded Gutierrez Reed for not paying sufficient attention to her props role.

"Since we've started, I've had a lot of days where my job should only be to focus on the guns and everyone's safety," Gutierrez Reed responded in an Oct. 14, 2021, email viewed by The Times.

Gutierrez Reed is the daughter of a legendary Hollywood armorer, Thell Reed. Although she grew up visiting film sets, "Rust" was only her second film as head armorer.

The accident happened on the 12th day of filming for the scheduled 21-day production.

"There were multiple breaks in the chain of responsibility and if any one of these individuals who are facing criminal charges had exercised more caution, this tragedy could have been avoided," Ahouraian said.

The Times has previously revealed a struggle to find qualified crew members to work on "Rust."

The prosecution could be complicated by the case's notoriety — most everyone in Santa Fe is familiar with the case, increasing the challenges of finding an impartial jury. What's more, the defendants could bring a spirited defense.

"This is a huge case for a smaller population county," said Kastenberg, a former prosecutor. "Whenever you go up against a powerful entity — like a Hollywood star who has a tremendous media reach — you want to get it right and you don't want to look like a fool."

The media spotlight adds to the pressure facing Carmack-Altwies and her office.

Andrea Reeb, a former New Mexico district attorney who joined the case as special prosecutor, told The Times that Baldwin's high-profile status was not a factor.

"As far as being an A-list actor and having notoriety or popularity, he is just another defendant to us under the law," Reeb said.

"The D.A. wants to show their constituency that they are not afraid to take any case, and that they will handle it ethically, and rightly," said Kastenberg. "This one might become politicized. But as the D.A., you can only bring charges that the evidence supports."

In addition to the criminal cases, several civil negligence suits are pending.

Two film crew members inside the church when the shooting occurred — lighting technician Serge Svetnoy, who was nearly hit by the bullet, and script supervisor Mamie Mitchell — sued.

Gutierrez Reed last year sued the weapons provider, Seth Kenney of PDQ Arm & Prop, alleging that he supplied to the set a mismarked box of ammunition containing live rounds, contributing to the deadly accident. Kenney has said he did not provide live ammunition to the "Rust" set.

Hutchins was killed just as her career was beginning to take off in a largely male-dominated field. She graduated from the American Film Institute Conservatory in 2015 and had been selected as one of American Cinematographer's Rising Stars of 2019.

The movie's producers have denied responsibility for the tragedy.

In a filing to the New Mexico Environment Department's Occupational Health and Safety Bureau, Rust Movie Productions LLC argued that the producers did not serve as the on-set employers.

Last April, the bureau imposed the maximum penalty, a $136,793 fine, on Rust Movie Productions, accusing production managers of "plain indifference" to employee safety and ignoring safety procedures.

Rust Movie Productions is appealing the decision; a hearing on the matter is set for April.

Meanwhile, producers hope to resume production of the movie "Rust" this spring near Los Angeles.

Is Baldwin at fault for cinematographer's death?

[Charges, from A1]
church on a ranch outside Santa Fe.

"I got countless people online saying, 'You idiot, you never point a gun at someone,' " Baldwin told George Stephanopoulos of ABC News in December 2021. "Well, unless you're told it's empty, and it's the director of photography who's instructing you on the angle for a shot we're going to do.

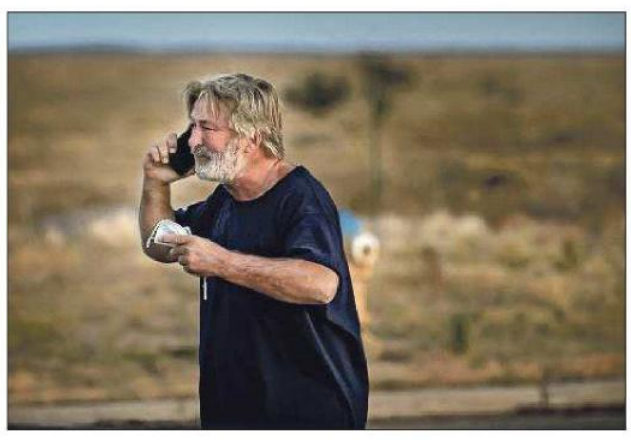
"And she and I had this thing in common, where we both thought it was empty, and it wasn't. And that's not her responsibility. That's not my responsibility. Whose responsibility it is remains to be seen."

Mary Carmack-Altwies, the district attorney in Santa Fe, nonetheless laid some blame on Baldwin, announcing that charges against both him and the film set's armorer, Hannah Gutierrez Reed, will be filed by the end of the month.

The district attorney plans to give the jury a choice between two involuntary manslaughter charges.

If Baldwin is convicted under the lesser charge, he would face up to 18 months in prison. If he is found guilty under the other one, which would require a finding of greater negligence, the mandatory penalty would be five years in prison.

The prosecutor's decision came as no surprise to legal experts. "I can't imagine a scenario where the person who fires the gun is relieved of any responsibility," said Joshua Kastenberg, a professor at the University of New Mexico School of Law.



Jim Weber Santa Fe New Mexican

ACTOR Alec Baldwin talks on the phone after being questioned in the shooting in Santa Fe, N.M., in 2021.

Beyond whatever facts the investigation uncovered, he said, the district attorney was facing political pressure to charge Baldwin in a case that has drawn enormous news coverage.

"As a D.A., you want to send a message ... that you don't have two legal systems in your county — one for the powerful and one for everybody else," Kastenberg said.

Baldwin is already fighting civil lawsuits accusing him of negligence for his shooting of Hutchins and "Rust" director Joel Souza, who was struck by the same bullet after it passed through Hutchins' body.

"The idea the person holding the gun, causing it to discharge, is not responsible is absurd to me," Matthew Hutchins, the cinematographer's husband, said on NBC's "Today" show after filing a wrongful-death suit against Baldwin, Gutierrez Reed, Halls and others. (Hutchins and Baldwin reached a confidential settlement last year.)

The standard of proof for civil liability is lower than for criminal conviction. Prosecutors must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the actor committed involuntary manslaughter, which in New Mexico is an unlawful killing of a person "without malice."

One of the prosecution's main challenges will be to prove that Baldwin showed "willful" disregard for others' safety, Andrea Reeb, a former New Mexico district attorney, told The Times in an interview before she was named special prosecutor for the "Rust" case.

" 'Willful' is a big word in there," Reeb said.

Baldwin has said he did not pull the gun's trigger. But an FBI analysis of the pistol found that it "functioned normally when tested in the laboratory" and that in order for the gun to fire, the trigger needed to be pulled.

Manslaughter charges for accidents on movie sets are rare. Kastenberg teaches law students that manslaughter, with all of its nuance, can be harder to prosecute than murder.

"With premeditated murder, mostly you've got great evidence — someone confessed, or someone had a motive, and there's blood on their hands, or there's good DNA evidence, and there's all sorts of behavior before and after the crime that helps you build the case," he said.

In 1987, a Los Angeles jury acquitted director John Landis and four associates of involuntary manslaughter charges stemming from the 1982 deaths of actor Vic Morrow and two children in a helicopter crash on the set of the "Twilight Zone" movie.

But after a 2014 train crash in Georgia killed assistant camera operator Sarah Jones during filming of "Midnight Rider," director Randall Miller pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter and served just over a year in prison.

Executive producer Jay Sedrish and assistant director Hillary Schwartz also pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter; they were sentenced to probation. The filmmakers had decided to shoot a scene on a trestle that spans a river even after railroad track owner CSX denied them permission. A train zoomed into the set at 55 mph.

John Samore, a criminal defense attorney in Albuquerque, expects a clash of expert witnesses testifying about whether Baldwin's conduct was in keeping with gun safety protocols that are commonly observed in the film industry.

Carmack-Altwies, the district attorney, told The Times that Baldwin "absolutely had a duty to either check the weapon himself or have someone check in front of him" and failed to follow film set protocols.

Several actors told prosecutors "that when you are handed a gun, you need to look at it and make sure that it's safe," she said.

A few weeks after Hutchins was shot, film star George Clooney said that the accidental shooting death of actor Brandon Lee on the set of "The Crow" in 1993 led many actors to start routinely examining a gun's bullet chamber before using it in a scene.

"Every single time I'm handed a gun on a set, every time ... I look at it, I open it, I show it to the person I'm pointing it to, show it to the crew," Clooney said on the "WTF with Marc Maron" podcast. "Every single take, you hand it back to the armorer when you're done. You do it again. And part of it is because of what happened to Brandon. Everyone does it. Everybody knows. And maybe Alec did that. Hopefully he did do that."

When Stephanopoulos played a recording of Clooney's remarks on ABC, Baldwin snapped: "If your protocol is you check the gun every time, well, good for you. Good for you."

Baldwin said he had been taught early in his career that filmmakers "don't want the actor to be the last line of defense against a catastrophic breach of safety with the gun."

"What is the actor's responsibility?" Stephanopoulos asked.

"The actor's responsibility is to do what the prop armorer tells them to do," Baldwin responded.

Unless Baldwin strikes a plea deal, jurors at his trial will have to decide whether they agree with him.

Times staff writer Meg James contributed to this report.

DAVID CROSBY, 1941 – 2023

A rock star of outsize talent and appetites

[**Crosby,** from A1]
cesses, died at 81, it was confirmed Thursday by a source close to the musician. Patricia Dance, a sister of Crosby's wife, told the New York Times that the musician died Wednesday evening.

A guitarist who sang in a crystal-clear middle tenor, Crosby had a voice sometimes described as angelic. He wrote or co-wrote songs with evocative lyrics and unusual tunings, and many of them — "Eight Miles High," "Guinnevere," "Wooden Ships," "Long Time Gone" — continue stirring the hearts of fans who had long since traded their mescaline for Medicare.

For some, Crosby took his place in rock history on Aug. 18, 1969, when he performed at Woodstock with Stephen Stills, Graham Nash and the fledgling group's recent addition, Neil Young. At 3 a.m. on the festival's final night, they played for about an hour. When they launched into "Long Time Gone," an elegy inspired by Robert F. Kennedy's assassination the previous year, Rolling Stone critic Greil Marcus wrote of Crosby that he had "never seen a musician more involved in his music." At one point, Crosby aimed his 12-string guitar over the stage's edge and, belting out the powerful lyrics he had written, nearly fell off.

"Their performance was a scary brilliant proof of the magnificence of music," Marcus wrote, "and I don't believe it could have happened with such power anywhere else."

The story of Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young — also known as CSNY — is a saga marked by great music, bitter breakups, reluctant reunions, more bitter breakups and devolution into duos, solo acts and entirely different bands. Over more than half a century, the musicians painfully produced both psychodrama and songs, with their resentments and squabbles sometimes written into the lyrics.

"I know I have an ego," Crosby wrote in his 1988 autobiography, "Long Time Gone." "Opinions differ as to its health, size, and value."

In the 2019 documentary "David Crosby: Remember My Name," the musician said he had alienated most of the musicians with whom he had been close. Interviewed for the film, Roger McGuinn of the Byrds said Crosby "had become insufferable."

Crosby was ousted from the Byrds in 1967. He had demeaned the abilities of his fellow musicians, drifted into onstage tangents about who really killed JFK, and sulked when the band refused to include "Triad" — his tribute to sexual threesomes — on an album.

Crosby's CSNY band mates had a far longer, but no less turbulent, history with him.

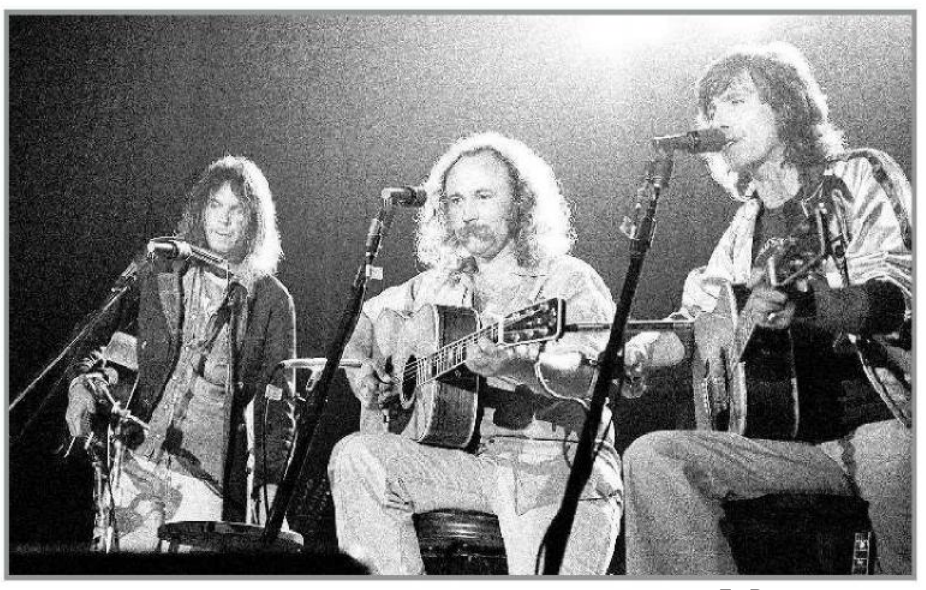
"There was an obvious dynamic between the four of us, and we've all done horrible things to one another," Crosby told Vanity Fair magazine in 2019. "But I let them down worse than anything they ever did to me. I became a junkie. There isn't any lower stage in human development than a junkie, and I did it right in front of them."

Born in Los Angeles on Aug. 14, 1941, David Van Cortlandt Crosby came from parents with old-money New York City roots in the Van Cortlandt and Van Rensselaer families. An early Van Cortlandt was the city's first native-born mayor, from 1710 to 1719. Crosby's paternal grandfather was treasurer of the Union Pacific railroad.

Breaking with family traditions, Crosby's father, Floyd, and mother, Aliph, headed for Hollywood. Floyd, a cinematographer, received a 1931 Oscar for his work on "Tabu: A Story of the South Seas." Aliph, a poet and a singer, stayed home to raise young David and his older brother, Ethan. She took the boys to symphony performances and organized family singalongs that profoundly influenced her younger son.

"Music kind of snuck up and kissed me on the ear," he said.

When he was 6, Crosby started singing harmonies as his dad played mandolin and the family sang from "The Fireside Book of Folk Songs." At 14, he was given his first guitar — his brother's old Silvertone acoustic.



ED PERLSTEIN Redferns

BEAUTIFUL MUSIC TOGETHER

Neil Young, from left, David Crosby and Graham Nash in 1977. With Stephen Stills, they repeatedly scaled the heights of rock and descended into acrimony.

"I've always said that I picked up the guitar as a shortcut to sex, and after my first joint I was sure that if everyone smoked dope there'd be an end to war," he wrote. "I was right about the sex. I was wrong when it came to drugs. Who knew?"

After his family moved to the Santa Barbara area, the teenage Crosby was in frequent trouble. At the exclusive Cate School in Carpinteria, he was thrown out for disabling the campus bell system. At Santa Barbara City College, he was suspended after his arrest for several house break-ins.

Playing folk songs at coffeehouses in Santa Barbara and then Los Angeles, he hurriedly left town after his girlfriend became pregnant. "I split," he later recounted. "Hey, now's the time for me to become Woody Guthrie."

An itinerant rocker, Crosby played clubs and slept on couches across the country. In 1964, he returned to L.A., where he hooked up with a band that called itself the Jet Set, then the Beefeaters, and, finally, the Byrds.

The Byrds quickly became a phenomenal success. Their songs — with lush vocal harmonies supplied by Crosby, McGuinn and guitarist Gene Clark — broke into the Top 40 lists seven times. Their 1965 recording of Bob Dylan's "Mr. Tambourine Man" sold nearly a million copies.

But Crosby's abrasiveness cost him his job. One autumn evening in 1967, McGuinn and bassist Chris Hillman "came zooming up in their Porsches and said that I was impossible to work with and I wasn't very good anyway and they'd do better without me. And frankly, I've been laughing ever since. ... But it hurt like hell."

Within four months, he had a new job. With other musicians and artists, he had gravitated to L.A.'s Laurel Canyon. He had an affair with Joni Mitchell, made a friend of Mama Cass Elliot and started playing with Stills, of Buffalo Springfield. Wowed when they saw British guitarist Nash perform with the Hollies at the Whisky a Go Go on the Sunset Strip, Crosby and Stills joined forces with him after the three jammed at a party.

In 1969, they released "Crosby, Stills and Nash," an album that continued to sell in the millions for years to come. One of its most popular songs, "Suite: Judy Blue Eyes," reflected "the chemistry between the three of us," Crosby said.

The next year, with Young, they scored another huge success with the album "Deja Vu." The album featured one of Crosby's signature songs — "Almost Cut My Hair" — as well as Joni Mitchell's "Woodstock."

The group's overnight renown and skyrocketing income — each man took home as much as $7 million in 1971 alone — helped cement rock as an industry, said David Browne, author of "Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young: The Wild, Definitive Saga of Rock's Greatest Supergroup."

"For all the imitators who came in their wake, no one ever sounded quite like them, and on a good night, the combination of their voices remained peerless," he wrote. "And just when you were ready to count them out, they somehow managed to unleash a song or performance that gave new meaning to the phrase 'keep hope alive' well into the current century."

But, while they were known for their exquisite harmonies, CSNY was regularly torn apart by internal clashes.

"There was a lot of competition," said Guillermo Giachetti, a longtime crew member. "There are many ways to light a stage, and they would disagree about that. They would get angry and start fighting if a song ended in a black-out or a white-out or a spotlight. If one had sex with twins, the other guy had to have sex with twins."

An ever-present cornucopia of drugs didn't help.

"I chased perpetual pleasure and got a full measure of pain as a payback," Crosby wrote. "And always there was dope — the best grass, pharmaceutical cocaine in factory-sealed brown glass bottles, and psychedelics cooked in the lab of Owsley Stanley, the Master Chef himself, the man whose very name was synonymous with quality LSD."

By 1982, Crosby's addiction was in full flower. He was freebasing — smoking — cocaine, because snorting it had burned holes in his nasal septum. For years, he had been shooting heroin, partly to obliterate the painful memories of his girlfriend Christine Hinton dying in a 1969 car crash. Makeup artists plastered over the sores on his face, but his eyes were glazed and his performances muted.

To make sure he didn't overdose on tour, his band mates hired Richard "Smokey" Wendell, a former Secret Service agent who had done the same job for John Belushi. The comic had died of an overdose just months earlier. "Great reference," Crosby said sardonically when he was told about the arrangement.

Though he was arrested a number of times on charges involving drugs, alcohol and guns, the most consequential bust came at a Dallas nightclub in 1982. Crosby was on a solo tour when police raided his dressing room to find him with a propane torch, a glass pipe containing drug residue, and a loaded .45 in his gym bag.

Over the next few years, he checked himself into half a dozen rehab programs and bolted from each. When his Dallas appeals finally ran out, he and his girlfriend, Jan Dance, fled to Florida, hoping to sail his boat to some safe Latin American haven. Finding the Mayan in disrepair — many of the fixtures had been sold off — he surrendered to the FBI and started serving his time in Texas.

"We're not talking the drunk tank here," he wrote in "Long Time Gone." "We're talking serious business: barbed wire, machine-gun towers and a 300-pound guy with no neck and a cowboy hat saying, 'Hey rock star, git over here, boy.' "

After he was paroled in 1986, he recounted the horrors of prison to students at Beverly Hills High School.

"One of them asked, 'Were you ever on stage stoned?' " he recalled. "The answer to that is that never once, until I got out of prison, did I ever record, perform, or do anything any way except stoned. I did it all stoned."

By then, he was 45 and had been playing music his entire adult life.

While he made a point of healthier living after prison, Crosby was reportedly as little as a week away from death when he received his liver transplant in 1994. As he recuperated, his past caught up with him in an even more meaningful way.

He first met James Raymond over coffee in a UCLA hospital cafeteria. Crosby was at the hospital for a post-transplant checkup. Raymond was there, after a lengthy search, to meet his biological father — the musician who had abandoned his pregnant mother more than 30 years earlier.

Raymond, who had been put up for adoption at birth, told Crosby: "There are some things you need to know. I've never been hurt, never been hungry, nobody ever beat me up."

Crosby was moved.

"I will be grateful to him until the day I die because he was so kind," Crosby wrote. "He knew my heart, knew what I was thinking, knew what my fears were. He knew that I wanted him to love me, and that I loved him, and that I felt terrible for not being there and raising him."

Raymond, it turned out, was a songwriter and keyboard player — "talented beyond belief," in Crosby's words, "and four times the musician I am." Crosby, guitarist Jeff Pevar and Raymond formed the group CPR, touring together and making albums for eight years. Raymond also wrote songs and served as a producer on the albums Crosby made in a creative rush that started in 2014.

Crosby's newer work was well received. Reviewing the 2018 album, "Here If You Listen," rock critic Danny Eccleston said Crosby's voice was "still elegant and ethereal."

"While he can wag a finger as vigorously as the rest of his Boomer cohort, gentleness and twinkle have always sugared the Croz pill," Eccleston wrote.

Long an advocate for legal marijuana, Crosby in his 70s planned to release Mighty Croz — his own, brand-name pot.

Crosby's survivors include his wife, Jan, sons James Raymond and Django, and daughters Erika and Donovan. In addition, he fathered two children by artificial insemination for the singer Melissa Etheridge and her then-partner Julie Cypher. The babies were born in 1996 and 1998.

For years, Crosby was asked whether he, Stills, Nash and Young, the most sporadic of the partners, would be reuniting for one last album, or one last tour.

The closest the old band mates came was in 2015 when Crosby, Stills and Nash played at the White House Christmas tree lighting, and managed, to the clear horror of Barack and Michelle Obama, to mangle "Silent Night."

Technical problems had doomed their performance, but the backstage combat afterward was intense.

"Nash heard someone gasp — and turned around to see Crosby and Stills lunging at each other," Browne wrote. "A member of their management team jumped to attention and pulled the two apart. All the strains that had been simmering between them for decades ... erupted like a geyser."

For years, all four insisted the group was mortally wounded, if not dead. Now, Stills, Nash and Young refused to speak with Crosby, whose more recent sins had included publicly insulting Young's wife, actor Daryl Hannah. He later apologized.

But asked in 2019 by "The Tonight Show's" Jimmy Fallon whether the group might reunite, Crosby wouldn't rule it out. "There's always a chance. Never say never, man," he told Fallon. "I have no bad stuff in my heart about any of these guys. We made too much great music together. I love 'em."

On Twitter — where he was an extremely active user — he said his followers were constantly inquiring about why he couldn't make up with the band.

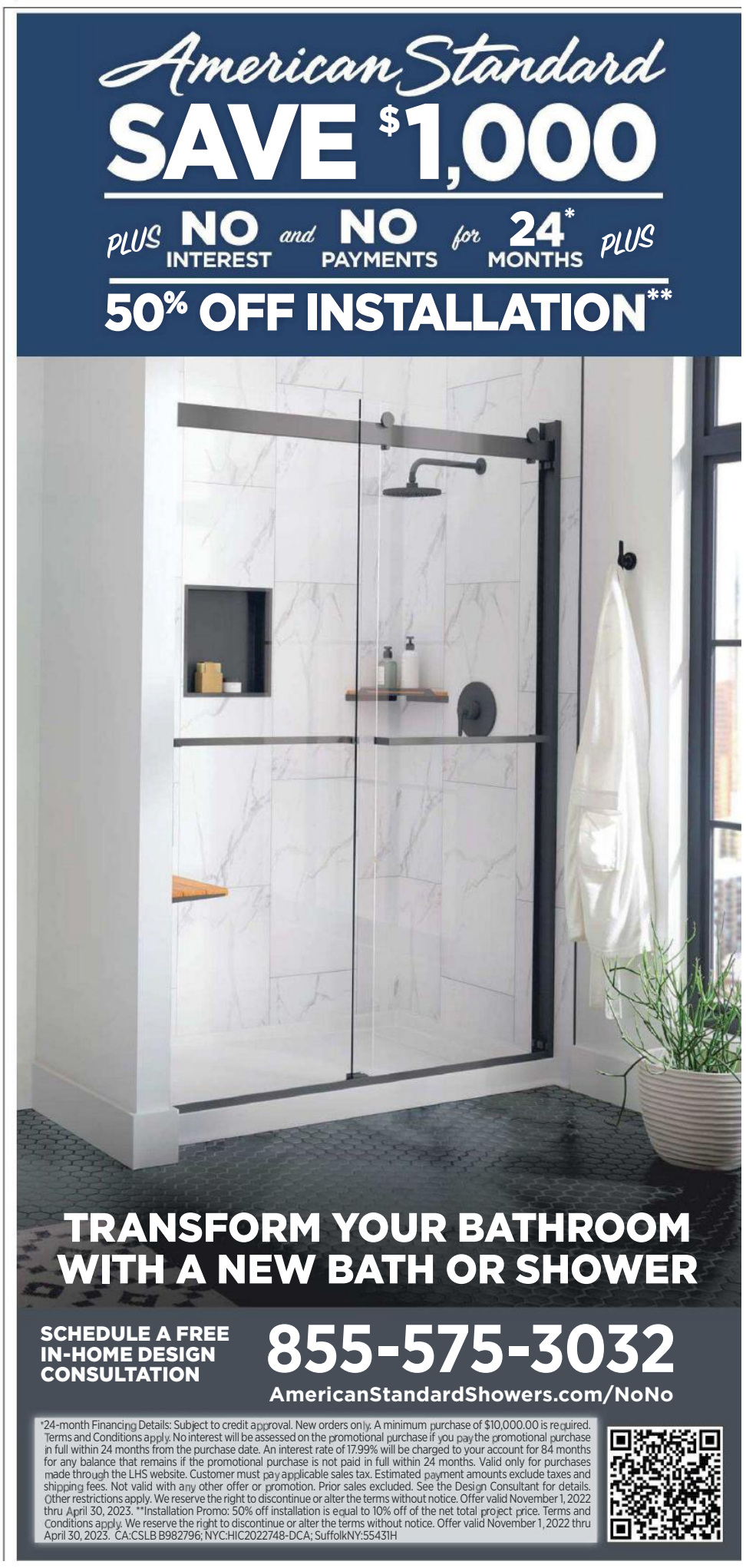
"I probably get that 10 times a day on Twitter," Crosby said in a 2019 interview with The Times' Amy Kaufman. " 'Will you guys quit squabbling and do your gig? Because we need you now. You are our voice.' "

In his final years, the musician used the social media app to express his more controversial opinions — judging fan photos of joints and even fellow performers. In 2021, after Phoebe Bridgers smashed her guitar during a performance on "Saturday Night Live," he deemed her "pathetic"; she, in turn, called him a "little bitch."

In one of his last tweets, sent Wednesday, he joked that heaven was "overrated ... cloudy." But he had been reflecting on his mortality for the last few years.

"It's hard. Who wants to die? I could use another entire lifetime," he told The Times. "There's so many things I still want to learn ... so much more music I'd like to make."

Chawkins is a former Times staff writer.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BUSINESS

Hastings steps aside as co-CEO of Netflix

He is now executive chairman. Greg Peters and Ted Sarandos share chief exec title.

By Wendy Lee

Ernesto S. Ruscio Getty Images for Netflix

NETFLIX, co-founded by Reed Hastings, above in 2018, said the transition "makes formal externally how we have been operating internally." The company reported slower revenue growth for its most recent quarter.

Reed Hastings is stepping aside as co-chief executive of Netflix, the streaming giant said Thursday, in a significant leadership change that the company says completes its succession plan.

Hastings, also a Netflix co-founder, is now the Los Gatos, Calif., company's executive chairman. Greg Peters, Netflix's chief operating officer, has been promoted to co-CEO, a title he now shares with Ted Sarandos, in a changing of the guard at the world's largest subscription streaming firm.

The move is the culmination of a gradual ceding of day-to-day authority by Hastings, who has been with the firm throughout its evolution from a DVD-by-mail upstart to a disruptive Hollywood powerhouse with a massive original content operation.

Hastings "leaves some big shoes for Greg and I to fill," Sarandos said in a recorded interview in which he discussed earnings. "Fortunately, we have four feet to do it with."

In a blog post, Hastings said he has increasingly delegated management of Netflix to Peters and Sarandos over the last 2½ years. Netflix said in a letter to shareholders that the transition "makes formal externally how we have been operating internally."

"It was a baptism by fire, given COVID and recent challenges within our business," Hastings said. "But they've both managed incredibly well, ensuring Netflix continues to improve and developing a clear path to reaccelerate our revenue and earnings growth. So the board and I believe it's the right time to complete my succession."

The change comes as Netflix tries to accelerate its growth, which slowed significantly last year, as it faced increasing competition in the marketplace from players including Walt Disney Co.'s Disney+ and Hulu, Apple's Apple TV+ and Warner Bros. Discovery's HBO Max. The early days of the pandemic caused a major surge in streaming signups as consumers sheltered at home, but since then subscriber growth has slowed down, causing investors to question the business model.

The company reported slower revenue growth Thursday for its most recent quarter as streaming services look to trim costs amid a possible looming recession and the company takes steps to accelerate its business by rolling out a cheaper ad-supported plan and charging customers for password sharing.

The company said its fourth-quarter revenue increased 2% to $7.85 billion, missing analysts' estimates of $7.86 billion, according to FactSet. Its growth was slower than in previous quarters. Revenue jumped 6% to $7.9 billion in the third quarter. Fourth-quarter net income was $55 million, down from $607 million a year earlier.

Full-year revenue in 2022 totaled $31.6 billion, up 6% from the year before. That's a marked slowdown from 2021, when sales increased 19% to $29.7 billion.

"2022 was a tough year, with a bumpy start but a brighter finish," Netflix said in a letter to shareholders Thursday. "We believe we have a clear path to reaccelerate our revenue growth: continuing to improve all aspects of Netflix, launching paid sharing and building our ads offering. As always, our north stars remain pleasing our members and building even greater profitability over time."

Some of Netlfix's moves are bearing fruit. Netflix increased its subscribers by 7.7 million, to 231 million, customers during the quarter, beating analyst estimates of 4.57 million subscribers added. Popular shows that helped draw large audiences included November release "Wednesday," featuring characters from "The Addams Family"; the Rian Johnson murder-comedy movie "Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery," released in December; and the recent royal docuseries "Harry & Meghan."

"Wednesday" has become the third-most watched show of all time on Netflix, viewed more than 1.2 billion hours in its first 28 days on the streaming service, according to Netflix company data, behind only "Squid Game" and "Stranger Things 4." "Wednesday" has been renewed for a second season. Meanwhile, "Glass Onion" ranked as Netflix's fourth-most popular English-language movie, drawing 273 million hours of viewing time by audiences.

The results support Netflix executives' assurances to investors that their business has stabilized after losing subscribers in the first half of last year and laying off hundreds of staffers. Still, some analysts believe that the market for streaming services — which saw massive growth during the early days of the pandemic — may soon reach its saturation point.

Netflix and Warner Bros. Discovery are canceling shows after previously renewing them for subsequent seasons, as they look to manage costs while still appealing to audiences.

The two men who will run the company moving forward, Peters and Sarandos, are longtime Netflix executives. Sarandos has been the chief architect of Netflix's original programming strategy, while Peters has been overseeing the building of the company's efforts in advertising, gaming and monetizing password sharing — seen as new areas to generate revenue.

"This is the right move at the right time," said Maribel Lopez, founder and principal analyst of Lopez Research, adding that Hastings was the CEO for subscriber growth, but now Netflix is transitioning to a leader focused on products meant to boost revenue per customer. "Running in a maturing market requires different skills than running a company for scale."

Sarandos was promoted to co-CEO in July 2020 and has moved past controversy in 2021 surrounding transphobic content in a Dave Chappelle special that upset Netflix employees. Key people in charge of Netflix's content strategy were rewarded with promotions and loftier titles Thursday. Bela Bajaria was named chief content officer. She was previously head of global TV. Scott Stuber, previously head of global films, is now chairman of Netflix film.

Succession planning has not always come easily to major media and entertainment companies. In 2020, Disney announced that longtime CEO Bob Iger was stepping down to become executive chairman and that his handpicked successor, Bob Chapek, would take on the CEO role. In November, the Disney board fired Chapek and replaced him with Iger for a two-year term.

There are challenges ahead for Netflix, including the continued ramp-up of competition in both the subscription and advertising markets.

"Reed has certainly won the war over the last two decades but the battles on content appeal relative to competitors and entering a very competitive AVOD (advertising video on demand) market will be intense," said Matthew Harrigan, a senior equity research analyst at Benchmark, who has a sell rating on the stock.

To attract cost-conscious consumers, Netflix in November rolled out a cheaper, ad-supported subscription in 12 countries. In the U.S., Netflix with ads costs $6.99 a month. It was the first time the streamer offered ads after years of being reluctant to do so. Its competitors, including HBO Max, Peacock and Paramount+, had already offered lower-cost video streaming options with ads.

Netflix said that it was pleased with the early results from its ad plans and that there was very little switching among its ad-free subscribers to the lower-cost plan with commercials.

"While it's still early days for ads and we have lots to do (in particular better targeting and measurement), we are pleased with our progress to date across every dimension: member experience, value to advertisers, and incremental contribution to our business," Netflix said in its letter to shareholders.

Some analysts believe Netflix is well positioned because big brands will be willing to spend to get access to the streamer's large audience. In a report from financial services firm Cowen & Co., 41% of 50 ad buyers it asked said they anticipate their largest client would advertise on Netflix this year.

Still, some analysts are skeptical about how popular Netflix's ad-supported plan will become.

"I think it remains to be seen what happens," Harrigan said. "It isn't like they're doing something different than everyone else. They're actually playing catch-up on the advertising side."

Netflix's stock closed at $315.78 on Thursday, down 3%. In after-hours trading, the stock rose 7% to $338.95.

Treasury takes measures to work around debt limit

Stopgaps could stave off default till June or later. But the political climate is fraught.

By Josh Boak

WASHINGTON — The U.S. government bumped up against its debt limit Thursday, prompting the Treasury Department to take "extraordinary" accounting steps to avoid default — as friction between President Biden and House Republicans raised concern about whether the U.S. can sidestep an economic crisis.

The department said in a letter to congressional leaders that it has started taking "extraordinary measures" as the government has run up against its legal borrowing capacity of $31.381 trillion. An artificially imposed cap, the debt ceiling has been increased about 80 times since the 1960s.

"I respectfully urge Congress to act promptly to protect the full faith and credit of the United States," Treasury Secretary Janet L. Yellen wrote in the letter.

Markets were relatively calm, given that the government can temporarily rely on accounting tweaks to stay open and any threats to the economy would be several months away. Even many worried analysts assume that there will be a deal.

But this particular moment seems more fraught than past brushes with the debt limit because of the broad differences between Biden and new House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, who presides over a restive Republican caucus.

Those differences increase the risk that the government could default on its obligations for political reasons. That could rattle financial markets and plunge the world's largest economy into a preventable recession.

Biden and McCarthy (R-Bakersfield) have several months to reach agreement as the Treasury Department imposes extraordinary measures to keep the government operating until at least June. But years of intensifying partisan hostility have led to a conflicting set of demands that jeopardize the ability of the lawmakers to work together on a basic duty.

Biden insists on a "clean" increase to the debt limit so that existing financial commitments can be sustained and is refusing to even start talks with Republicans. McCarthy is calling for negotiations that he believes will lead to spending cuts. It's unclear how much he wants to trim and whether fellow Republicans would support any deal after a testy start to the new Congress that required 15 rounds of voting to elect McCarthy as speaker.

Asked twice Wednesday whether there was evidence that House Republicans can ensure that the government would avert a default, White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said it's their "constitutional responsibility." She did not say whether the White House saw signs at this stage that a default was off the table.

"We're just not going to negotiate that," Jean-Pierre said. "They should feel the responsibility."

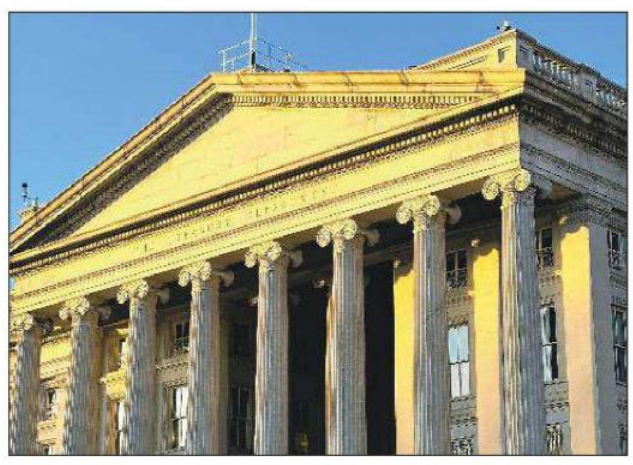
McCarthy said Biden needs to recognize the political realities that come with a divided government. The speaker equates the debt ceiling to a credit card limit and calls for a level of fiscal restraint that did not occur under President Trump, a Republican who in 2019 signed a bipartisan suspension of the debt ceiling.

"Why create a crisis over this?" McCarthy said this week. "I mean, we've got a Republican House, a Democratic Senate. We've got the president there. I think it's arrogance to say, 'Oh, we're not going to negotiate about pretty much anything' and especially when it comes to funding."

Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky said Thursday that he was unconcerned about the situation because debt ceiling increases are "always a rather contentious effort."

"America must never default on its debt," McConnell said. "We'll end up in some kind of negotiation with the administration over what are the circumstances or conditions under which the debts are going to be raised."

But any deal would need to pass the Democratic-run Senate. Many Democratic lawmakers are skeptical about the ability to work with Republicans aligned with the "Make America Great Again" movement started by Trump. The MAGA movement has claimed that the 2020 election lost by Trump was rigged, a falsehood that contributed to the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.



Jon Elswick Associated Press

IN AN ERA of polarization and rising debt loads, the limit has been transformed into a political bludgeon.

"This is not complicated: If the MAGA GOP stops paying our nation's bills, Americans will be the ones to pay the price," said Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.). "Political brinkmanship with the debt limit would be a massive hit to local economies, American families, and would be nothing less than an economic crisis at the hands of the Republicans."

The debt ceiling was originally a fix made during World War I that enabled bonds to be issued without getting repeated congressional approvals. But in an era of polarization and rising debt loads, the limit has been transformed into a political bludgeon. It does not reflect the actual capacity of the federal government to borrow, simply how much it is legally able to do so without congressional approval.

In order to keep the government open, the Treasury Department on Thursday made a series of accounting maneuvers that would put a hold on contributions and investment redemptions for government workers' retirement and healthcare funds, giving the government enough financial space to handle its day-to-day expenses until roughly June.

What happens if these measures are exhausted without a debt limit deal is unknown. A prolonged default could be devastating, with crashing markets and panic-driven layoffs if confidence evaporated in a cornerstone of the global economy, the U.S. Treasury note.

Analysts at Bank of America cautioned in a report last week that "there is a high degree of uncertainty about the speed and magnitude of the damage the U.S. economy would incur."

The underlying challenge is that the government would have to balance its books on a daily basis if it lacks the ability to issue debt. If the government cannot issue debt, it would have to impose cuts equal in size on an annual basis to 5% of the total U.S. economy. Analysts say their baseline case is that the U.S. avoids default.

Still, if past debt ceiling showdowns such as the one that occurred in 2011 are any guide, Washington may be in a nervous state of suspended animation with little progress until the "X-date," the deadline when the Treasury's extraordinary measures are depleted.

Unlike the 2011 showdown, the Federal Reserve is actively raising interest rates to lower inflation and is rolling off its own holdings of U.S. debt, meaning that recession fears are already elevated among consumers, businesses and investors.

Biden administration officials have said they will not prioritize payments to bondholders if the country passes the "X-date" without an agreement. Over the years, officials have studied this emergency option, which Treasury officials across administrations have said is unworkable because of the government's payments system.

"To some extent, the 'extraordinary measures' are the backup plan, and once those are exhausted the next step is a major question mark," economists at Wells Fargo wrote in a Thursday analysis.

Boak writes for the Associated Press. AP writer Lisa Mascaro contributed to this report.

MARKET ROUNDUP

Stocks hit by weak housing, factory data

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wall Street's losses deepened Thursday as worries that the U.S. may be headed for a painful recession kept stock traders in a selling mood.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index and Dow Jones industrial average each fell 0.8%, their third straight drop. The Nasdaq composite lost 1%.

Every major index is on track for a weekly loss after the market kicked off the year with a two-week rally. Analysts expect the broader market to remain unsteady as investors try to get a clearer picture of inflation and the economy's path.

"It's very reflective of the conflicting views that investors have with respect to where things are headed here in early 2023," said Greg Bassuk, chief executive of AXS Investments.

Reports showed weakness in several areas of the economy, including the housing industry and manufacturing in the mid-Atlantic region, though they weren't quite as bad as expected and the job market appears to remain healthy. They follow worse-than-expected readings a day earlier on retail sales, a cornerstone of the economy, and industrial production.

The weaker economic data "has investors a little bit on edge, questioning how much consumer resilience is left in the tank," said Ross Mayfield, investment strategist at Baird.

The latest economic data paint a picture of an economy slowing under the weight of last year's rate hikes by the Federal Reserve. The central bank aggressively raised interest rates to slow the economy and cool inflation. The strategy risks hitting the brakes too hard on economic growth and causing a recession.

Several major banks are forecasting at least a mild recession this year as the effects of the Fed's rate increases reverberate through the economy. Inflation has been cooling, but prices are still stubbornly high on many items and are squeezing consumers.

The central bank has raised its key overnight rate to a range of 4.25% to 4.50% from roughly zero a year ago. The Fed will announce its next decision on interest rates Feb. 1. Investors are largely forecasting a raise of just 0.25 of a percentage point next month, down from December's half-point hike and from four prior increases of 0.75 of a percentage point.

The Fed has also been closely watching several areas of the economy, including the labor market, to get a better sense of whether inflation is slowing. The latest weekly unemployment data show that employment remains strong, which is good for workers but makes the Fed's inflation fight more difficult.

The yield on the two-year Treasury, which tracks expectations for future Fed action, rose to 4.13% from 4.09% late Wednesday. The 10-year Treasury yield, which influences interest rates on mortgages and other loans, rose to 3.40% from 3.38%. Bond yields have been mostly falling since the beginning of the year.

More than 75% of the stocks in the S&P 500 closed lower. Technology companies, retailers and industrial stocks were among the biggest drags on the benchmark index. Chipmaker Nvidia fell 3.5%, Home Depot dropped 4% and Deere fell 4.1%.

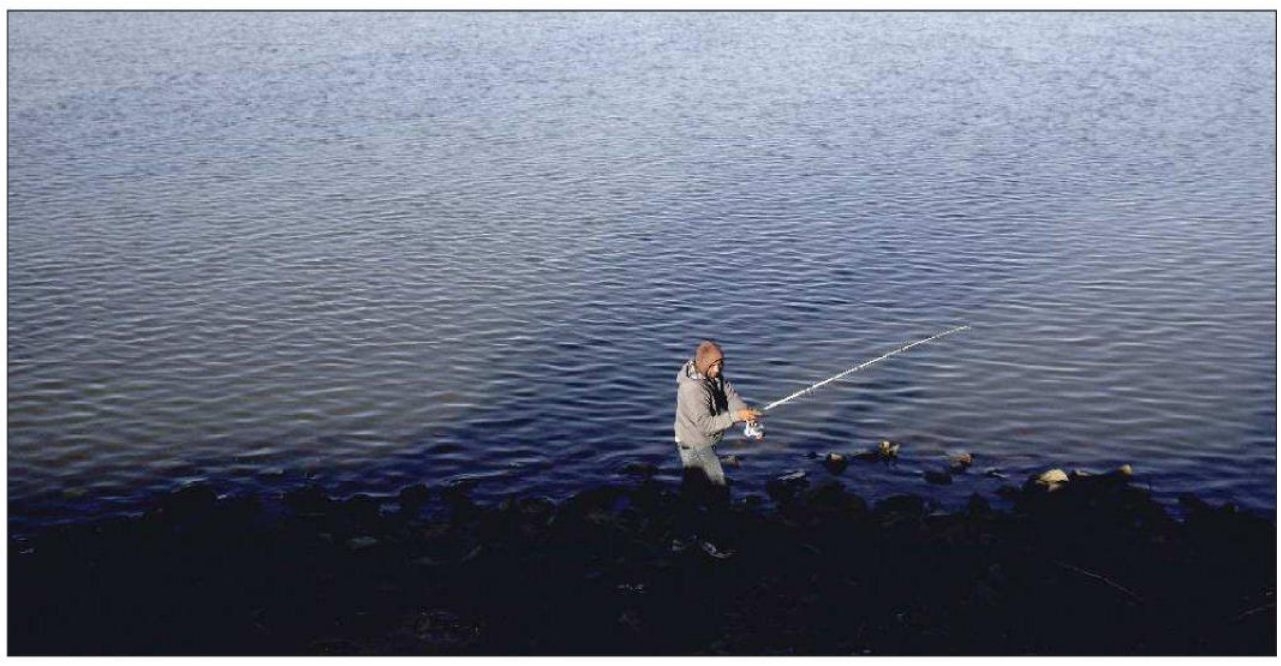
The S&P 500 shed 30.01 points to close at 3,898.85. The Dow dropped 252.40 points to 33,044.56. The tech-heavy Nasdaq slid 104.74 points to 10,852.27.

Small-company stocks also fell. The Russell 2000 index lost 18.02 points, or 1%, to close at 1,836.35.

Major stock indexes

Index	Close	Daily change	Daily % change	YTD % change
Dow industrials	33,296.96	-613.89	-1.81	+0.45
S&P 500	3,928.86	-62.11	-1.56	+2.33
Nasdaq composite	10,957.01	-138.10	-1.24	+4.69
S&P 400	2,543.36	-32.25	-1.25	+4.65
Russell 2000	1,854.36	-29.93	-1.59	+5.29
EuroStoxx 50	4,173.96	-0.37	-0.01	+10.06
Nikkei (Japan)	26,791.12	+652.44	+2.50	+2.67
Hang Seng (Hong Kong)	21,678.00	+100.36	+0.47	+9.59

Associated Press



GARY CORONADO Los Angeles Times

A FISHERMAN casts his line in the Sacramento River. While the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta provides drinking water and supports agriculture, it is also home to threatened and endangered species.

Push for more delta water

[**Delta,** from A1]

but only a small fraction of that water has so far made it into storage. In the delta — the heart of the state's vast water system — nearly 95% of incoming water has flowed into the Pacific Ocean, according to data from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

The calls by lawmakers have reignited a long-simmering debate over where — and to whom — the state's precious water supplies should go.

"With so much excess water in the system, there is no reason that exports south of the Delta cannot be increased," read another letter that state Sen. Melissa Hurtado (D-Sanger) and Assemblymember Jasmeet Bains (D-Bakersfield) addressed to Newsom.

But experts say it's not that simple.

While the delta provides drinking water for about 27 million Californians and supports the state's massive agricultural industry, it is also a delicate ecosystem that is home to threatened and endangered species — many of which have been suffering amid warming waters, increasing salinity, dangerously low flows and other ecological stressors. The tiny delta smelt are dangerously close to extinction.

State and federal water managers said they have been complying with environmental regulations designed to protect those species, including a so-called first flush protocol that mandates two weeks of reduced pumping at the onset of the first big winter storms.

The flush provides the fish with enough time and water to move away from the powerful pumps, which have been known to chew them up.

"There are reasons that there are restrictions on pumping, and each of them is founded in some way, shape or form on trying to conserve habitat for listed species," said Jeffrey Mount, a senior fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California.

Mount said it would be a mistake to ignore the environmental benefits of the water. The smelt are akin to a "canary in the coal mine" for the entire health of the delta, he said, and the first flush is biologically very important for the dynamics of the estuary.

"If we take actions which are helpful to smelt, we'll help an array of other native fishes and the native ecosystem," he said.

The first flush protocol stems from biological opinions issued by the Trump administration in 2019 and from incidental take permits issued by the Newsom administration in 2020. Some lawmakers on both sides of the aisle, however, are calling for the rules to be revised.

From Jan. 3-16, pumping rates in the delta were reduced to nearly half of their capacity in accordance with the protocol, resulting in a loss of about 84,000 acre-feet of exports from the area, according to estimates from the Public Policy Institute. That's enough water to irrigate 25,000 acres of farmland for a year or supply 150,000 homes.

"Government regulations should not and must not deny our constituents critical water from these storms," U.S. Rep. David Valadao (R-Hanford) and five other Republican lawmakers wrote in a letter to Newsom and President Biden last week. "We have a moral obligation to provide Californians any relief that is within our control."

But the environment also suffers when delta water is diverted for agricultural and urban use, said Felicia Marcus, a fellow at Stanford University's Water in the West Program.

"It's always the fish that get shorted, and we destroyed the ecosystem as a result," she said. "There are dry years where we're diverting 80% to 90% of the flow during critical times of year. Well, no ecosystem survives with that kind of diversion, so we have to manage the system differently and share more of it with nature."

She and Mount said that even with the two-week protocol, the state still will have time to capture more water. Patterns from previous wet years, including 2011, 2017 and 2019, indicate that the delta will continue to flow at high rates for at least the next few weeks. That means more time to fill the San Luis Reservoir, the delta's key water reserve.

The reservoir, which is currently at 48% capacity, will also be filled by the state's melting snowpack, which was at 245% of normal for the date on Thursday.

"Right now we've got a bonanza of snow, and it's looking pretty good at this particular time of year, so the idea of shorting these poor fish and the ecosystem in a time of somewhat plenty isn't very compelling," Marcus said.

Still, there's no denying that stormwater capture remains a point of frustration in California — especially as millions of residents are being asked to cut back and conserve more water than ever.

"We must make the most of the heavy precipitation we are receiving and use it to our advantage," Rep. Jim Costa (D-Fresno) wrote in a letter to state and federal officials. He called for increased flexibility on the first flush rule.

Such flexibility would have made a difference during the recent storms, according to Jennifer Pierre, general manager of State Water Contractors, a nonprofit association of public water agencies.

Rather than tying the first flush protocol to a two-week calendar, it should be driven by real-time measurements and hydrology, she said.

"There was no offramp or monitoring or flexibility in either of the permits to allow us to make that call," she said. "There's a big lesson learned here."

But it's also important to be strategic about how quickly reservoirs are being filled, said Mark Gold, an adjunct professor at UCLA's Institute of the Environment and Sustainability. Gold said it would be worrisome if the San Luis Reservoir were 100% full so early in the wet season.

"Hopefully the memory of what happened at Oroville is not lost on people's minds," he said, referencing the 2017 crisis in which high water levels nearly overtopped the massive Oroville Dam. "That really demonstrated how important reservoir management, volume management, really is. ... It's not quite as simple as looking at percentages and flows."

And while reservoir storage is important, it would behoove officials to devote more focus to groundwater recharge, or the replenishment of the state's overdrafted aquifers, he said. Even operating at full capacity, the pumps would not have been able to capture anywhere near the amount of water that ultimately made its way to the San Francisco Bay.

"Really, maximizing replenishment in the Central Valley should be one of the highest priorities in the state of California," Gold said.

State officials acknowledge there are flaws in the system. In a written response to lawmakers' concerns, Department of Water Resources Director Karla Nemeth said current infrastructure to move water through the delta is "outdated, vulnerable to climate change and earthquakes, and limits the export of water during these long, sustained winter storm events."

She said it's an argument for a proposed $16-billion tunnel that would allow more water to be moved into state and federal aqueducts during storm events, while also protecting fish from pumps. Versions of the controversial Delta Conveyance Project have been around for decades, but the state is advancing its progress, Nemeth said.

Had it been operating during the recent storms, the tunnel would have moved about 188,000 more acre-feet of water into the San Luis Reservoir from the delta, or enough to supply nearly 2 million people for a year, according to the department.

Marcus, who formerly served as chair of the State Water Resources Control Board, said she could understand some of the frustration around the loss of water during the recent storms, but managing the state's spigots will always require a delicate balance.

"Your job is trying to maximize all of these uses as best you can, not pick total winners and losers," she said. "Everybody sees every drop they didn't get as a drop that was wrongfully given to somebody else ... so that's just part of the challenge."

Former L.A. councilman to plead guilty

[**Huizar,** from A1]

cluding many surreptitiously recorded conversations implicating the former councilman in payoffs and money laundering.

The trial also would have been an emotional ordeal for his family. Prosecutors were set to have his wife, Richelle; brother Salvador; and 83-year-old mother, Isidra, testify — as they did at one of the developer's trials — that they laundered some of Huizar's bribe money.

Political consultants, lobbyists and a top City Hall aide were also prepared to take the stand in exchange for leniency in their own upcoming sentencings for the crimes they admitted committing as members of Huizar's extortion racket.

Another former council member, Mitchell Englander, pleaded guilty in a related case in 2020 and has already been released from prison.

A third council member, Mark Ridley-Thomas, is scheduled to go on trial in March for a bribery and fraud scheme he is accused of running when he was on the L.A. County Board of Supervisors. He denies wrongdoing.

In the years leading up to his arrest in June 2020, Huizar led the council's Planning and Land Use Management Committee, which reviews large-scale real estate development proposals. That gave Huizar enormous power over major construction projects during a boom period for downtown.

AL SEIB Los Angeles Times

THEN-COUNCILMEMBER Jose Huizar representing the 14th District at City Hall in April 2018.

Huizar, 54, was the primary target of prosecutors in a case that unearthed extensive corruption in the city's approval process for multiple downtown high-rise projects, all of them in what was then his district.

One was a 77-story skyscraper that was proposed on Figueroa Street but never built. Another was a planned 20-story residential tower on Olympic Boulevard, also abandoned.

A third, so far not built, would have been near the L.A. Live entertainment complex, while a fourth is currently under construction in the Arts District.

A spokesman for the U.S. attorney's office in Los Angeles declined to comment on the case. Council President Paul Krekorian, in a statement, described Huizar's offenses as "an indefensible betrayal of the public trust."

"We should all be relieved to see that justice will now be done," he said.

In the plea deal, prosecutors agreed to request a sentence of no more than 13 years in prison; Huizar promised not to ask for less than nine years. The sentencing before U.S. District Judge John F. Walter has not been scheduled.

Huizar, who signed the agreement on Wednesday, admitted that he ran a criminal enterprise involving lobbyists, consultants and city officials who sought to "personally enrich themselves and their families and associates through a pay-to-play scheme within the city."

Officials "extracted financial benefits from developers" in exchange for committee votes and other government acts, the agreement said.

Huizar and others solicited or took cash, consulting fees, casino gambling chips, loans, political contributions, flights on private jets, luxury hotel stays, spa visits, concert tickets and prostitution services, the former councilman acknowledged.

Huizar spent two decades in political office, joining the board of the Los Angeles Unified School District in 2001, then winning a City Council seat four years later.

He replaced then-Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa in an Eastside council district that included Boyle Heights and El Sereno.

In 2012, as part of the redistricting process, the council shifted the vast majority of downtown into Huizar's district, a move that suddenly gave him huge say over some of the biggest projects in Los Angeles.

His power grew even more once he was tapped to lead the council's planning and land use panel, which serves as a gatekeeper for large-scale real estate projects citywide.

Jaime Regalado, emeritus professor of political science at Cal State Los Angeles, said Huizar had a "choir boy image" when he ran for school board, but in the end "wound up serving himself."

"It's a horrible story," Regalado said, adding, "He went from the light to the dark."

In one of the schemes, the developer who proposed the 77-story skyscraper provided $600,000 in collateral to help Huizar secure a loan. He used the money to quietly settle a sexual harassment lawsuit filed by one of his former aides.

Those funds arrived just as Huizar was gearing up for reelection, eliminating what otherwise would have been a huge campaign issue.

Huizar stopped making payments on the loan in 2018, weeks after investigators searched his home and offices, in effect pocketing most of the money.

In another scheme, developer Dae Yong Lee agreed to provide Huizar, one of his aides and a go-between a $500,000 cash bribe to ensure city approval of his 232-unit apartment project, Huizar admitted.

At the time, construction trade unions had filed a challenge against the 20-story tower, but Huizar took the developer's side and got the project approved.

Later, Huizar pressed his aide, George Esparza, to hand over $200,000 in bribe money during a bathroom conversation that was secretly recorded.

"I'm gonna need money," Huizar told Esparza. "Um, that is mine, right? That is mine."

In the plea agreement, Huizar admitted he was referring to the $200,000 bribe during that exchange.

OPINION

EDITORIAL

Courtesy of RACHEL MASON

CINEMATOGRAPHER Halyna Hutchins on the set of director Rachel Mason's music video "Give You Everything" featuring Peaches and Buck Angel.

Only banning on-set guns will prevent another 'Rust' tragedy

MORE THAN A YEAR after the shocking fatal shooting of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins on the New Mexico set of the movie "Rust," prosecutors announced Thursday that they will file criminal charges of involuntary manslaughter against Alec Baldwin, the star of the movie who allegedly discharged the replica of a vintage Colt .45.

They will file the same charges against the film's armorer, Hannah Gutierrez Reed, whose job it was to check the guns to make sure they were safe to handle. The gunshot also wounded director Joel Souza, who survived, but no charges are being filed in connection with that.

"On my watch, no one is above the law, and everyone deserves justice," New Mexico's 1st Judicial Dist. Atty. Mary Carmack-Altwies said.

We certainly agree and want the court system to decide the matter fairly. But whatever the legal outcome of events on that afternoon in 2021 during a rehearsal in which Baldwin pointed a gun in the direction of Hutchins, this was a tragedy that should never happen again.

The low-budget, 21-day film shoot was beset by problems — complaints from the crew about working conditions, a walkout by half a dozen camera crew members in protest, and at least two accidental prop gun discharges earlier in the filming, according to a report in The Times. We already know that many things went wrong on that set the day of the shooting. Gutierrez Reed, who was juggling responsibilities as armorer and a props assistant, has said she checked the gun that day but not right before the rehearsal.

According to Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office documents, the film's assistant director, Dave Halls, who was also the safety director on the set, handed the gun to Baldwin and said it was "cold," meaning it contained no live ammunition. That would turn out to be fatally wrong. The gun contained at least one live round — forbidden on sets — mixed in with dummy rounds, which contain no gunpowder. Halls reached a plea deal with prosecutors to accept a misdemeanor charge of negligent use of a deadly weapon.

The point is that no one has to use any kind of gun on a movie or TV set. Even though accidental shootings like this are thankfully rare, too many things have to go right so that nothing goes horribly wrong. "Under the best circumstances, mistakes can be made, props that purposely look identical to each other can get mixed up, and the necessary handling of these props can cause malfunction," says Spencer Parsons, associate professor and head of production at Northwestern University in the School of Communication's Department of Radio/Television/Film.

Attempts to legislate better protections on sets fizzled in the California Legislature last spring. That's unfortunate, and it returns the responsibility to makers of films and TV shows. Why can't Hollywood screen wizards create the effects of firearms without having to use even prop guns with dummy rounds?

If they can make an actress look like "M3GAN," an AI doll that's terrifying moviegoers in droves, why can't they simulate a firearm discharge — and the recoil that the shooter experiences — without having a real weapon on set?

These are issues that directors and writers should be seriously addressing. Let's eliminate the possibility that actors or crew members could get shot on a set.

What hath Kevin McCarthy wrought?

The House has no leader, just one unmoored individual giving out committee assignments to even wilder fringe figures.

JACKIE CALMES

HOW DOES KEVIN McCarthy live with himself? I once asked. Maybe he thinks his life is good now that he's achieved his dream of becoming House speaker, even if it did take a humiliating 15 ballots.

Yet I'm asking again. Because already in these first two weeks of his congressional "leadership," the soulless "My Kevin" has signaled that he not only continues to tolerate dangerous rhetoric from prominent Republicans in his fold, but he also effectively rewards them, with prime House committee assignments. What's more, he's proved quite capable of menacing talk himself.

Repeat after me: Words matter.

With frightening regularity, we get tragic or near-tragic evidence of that truism, plagued as our politics have been by hateful rhetoric since the ascendance of Donald Trump. The latest proof: Monday's arrest in Albuquerque of a failed Republican candidate who allegedly paid four men to shoot up the homes of four Democratic officials, leaving a sleeping 10-year-old in one house strafed with debris in her bed.

The man had tweeted after his landslide loss in November, "I am the MAGA king."

In San Francisco, Paul Pelosi continues to recover from the hammer blows that a home intruder intended for his wife, former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. For the first time ever, all 435 House members get $10,000 for security at their personal residences, reflecting the spike in threats to lawmakers since Trump became president in 2017. And recently the defeated president yet again took to social media to attack, by name, the volunteer poll worker in Georgia who'd tearfully testified to the House Jan. 6 committee about the threats she'd suffered after the former president publicly and falsely accused her of election fraud in 2020; his self-appointed stormtroopers even broke into her mother's home to make a "citizen's arrest."

"Do you know how it feels to have the president of the United States ... target you?" she asked.

Some House members who faced her at the committee that day do know what it's like. California's Democratic Rep. Adam B. Schiff and former Republican Reps. Liz Cheney of Wyoming and Adam Kinzinger of Illinois, among others, still receive death threats for their anti-Trump, pro-democracy work.

A raft of recent studies documents that political violence and domestic terrorism are disproportionately the work of right-wing extremists. The Republican Party's continued refusal to acknowledge that dangerous reality and to rein in its provocateurs is a threat to national security.

Both Democrats and Republicans are vulnerable. Trump and his ilk are almost as likely to target "RINOs" (Republicans in name only) as Democrats: Last fall Trump wrote on social media that Mitch McConnell "has a DEATH WISH" after the Republican Senate leader agreed with Democrats on a spending bill. In Missouri, a Republican Senate candidate appeared armed in an ad with several commandos, storming a house to go "RINO hunting."

Against this backdrop consider just some of McCarthy's recent words and actions in making — and unmaking — House committee assignments.

Reps. Paul Gosar of Arizona and Marjorie Taylor Greene of Georgia, stripped of committee seats in the previous, Democratic-controlled Congress because of threatening commentary, including suggestions of assassinations of Democratic lawmakers, each got coveted assignments. Greene once denied that the Pentagon was struck by a plane on 9/11, but now she'll be on the Homeland Security Committee. She and Gosar were the draws at a white supremacists' convention last year (without facing consequences from McCarthy), and now they'll be on the Oversight and Accountability Committee, which will be a hotbed for investigations of President Biden and his administration and family.

Greene's newfound prominence in McCarthy's House is her reward for doing as much as anyone to make him speaker. Surely you didn't think he'd hold it against MTG that she told a Republican audience just last month that if she'd been in charge of the Jan. 6 insurrection to overturn Biden's election, "we'd have won — not to mention, we would have been armed."

McCarthy long ago assured rival-turned-ally Rep. Jim Jordan of Ohio that Jordan would chair the Judiciary Committee once Republicans took control. Now the craven speaker also has put House Freedom Caucus extremists who opposed his elevation, like Gosar, on powerful committees.

Then, to further ingratiate himself with that bunch, he began making good on his threat to oust two California Democrats from the House Intelligence Committee — former Chair Schiff and member Eric Swalwell — in promised payback for Democrats' sanctions of Gosar and Greene in 2021. Worse, McCarthy did so with false, incendiary attacks on Schiff and Swalwell that are all but certain to stoke the threats of violence both men already suffer.

Of Swalwell, McCarthy told reporters on camera, "If you got the briefing I got from the FBI, you wouldn't have Swalwell on any committee." He baselessly claimed that Schiff "openly lied to the American public" to engineer Trump's first impeachment, for suggesting to Ukraine's president that his country would lose U.S. military aid unless it produced dirt against presidential candidate-to-be Biden.

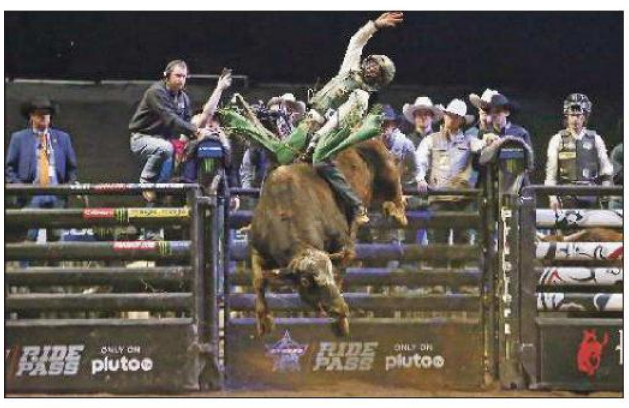
The Washington Post's fact-checker gave McCarthy its worst score, four Pinocchios, concluding that his indictments of Schiff and Swalwell "appear based on figments of imagination." Schiff aptly called McCarthy's words "partisan slander," while Swalwell told hosts of "The View," "It looks to me like political vengeance."

If you doubt Swalwell, take it from MTG. In a post Monday on Trump's social media site, Greene wrote: "Vengeance is mine declares the Lord. God will not let evil go unpunished. The @HouseGOP must do what is right for the American people and no longer serve the Uniparty and the Globalist agenda. America First!"

It's not God who is taking revenge, though. It's the new lords of the House like Greene and Gosar, the wrathful powers behind McCarthy's shaky throne.

@jackiekcalmes

LETTERS



CHRIS ELISE Icon Sportswire

A BULL rider participates in the PBR Pluto TV Invitational at the Crypto.com Arena in February 2022.

From the horse expert's mouth

Re "Across state, growing push to buck rodeos," Nov. 13

The Los Angeles City Council is considering an ordinance that its sponsors believe will improve the safety and welfare of rodeo animals without prohibiting rodeos within the city.

The draft ordinance is based on a misunderstanding of how rodeos are currently conducted.

If passed, the ordinance will effectively prohibit rodeos within the city and will likely have unintended consequences for other equestrian activities, including police work, Mexican charrería, movie filming, backyard gymkhana, jumping, dressage and even the 2028 Summer Olympic Games.

The ordinance would ban implements used not only in rodeos (such as spurs), but also in many other equestrian endeavors, as well as safety implements necessary to protect human participants and spectators.

The Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee strongly supports the humane treatment of animals used in equestrian competitions. The committee was created to advise the city on matters pertaining to horses. It has offered to assist the council in formulating an ordinance that will improve animal welfare without having unintended consequences for the horse-loving population of Los Angeles.

Good policy is made by informed individuals with the assistance of experts. We hope that the council will table the current proposal, take the time to become fully informed and work with its advisors to create an effective ordinance.

DAVID RAMEY
Los Angeles

The writer, a practicing equine veterinarian in L.A. since 1984, is president of the Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee.

GOP's debt-limit hostage-taking

Re "The debt ceiling stupidity turns up again," column, Jan. 18

Section 4 of the 14th Amendment, the U.S. Constitution's public debt clause, proclaims, "The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, including debts incurred for payment of pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned."

Given this constitutional requirement, isn't it time to put an end to this malaise and just have the president issue an executive order to eliminate the debt ceiling limit altogether, since Congress failed to do this on its own?

JOHN WINKELMAN
Rancho Mission Viejo

::

Back in 2011, the national debt hovered near $15 trillion. Today, we're at about $31.5 trillion. This week, the federal government reached its debt ceiling.

Congress spends too much money, period. The Republicans and Democrats are almost equally bad at it. Some Republicans want to use the debt ceiling fight to lower future spending. The chances of their being successful are slim to none.

Congress just spends and spends with no thought of financial responsibility. That is a formula for disaster.

Readers should check out the book "This Time Is Different," by Harvard economists Kenneth Rogoff and Carmen Reinhart. Too much debt leads to the decline and ultimate destruction of great countries, and the U.S. today is not exempt from this outcome.

DOUG McDERMOTT
Santa Monica

::

I am a bit confused by the Republicans' concern about raising the federal debt limit. If it wasn't for the easy access to credit in America, our economy would not be as successful as it is.

Every day I am besieged with credit offers, teaser rates and increased limits even though I have more than enough accounts and am retiring those I no longer use.

Perhaps the Republicans can turn their attention to growing consumer debt and offer some policy changes to reverse that.

JUNE THOMPSON
Los Angeles

::

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen could begin preparing to avoid default by withholding all congressional operating budgets (especially lawmakers' pay).

THOMAS OSTWALD
Santa Barbara

HOW TO WRITE TO US

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JES AZNAR Getty Images

PROTESTERS RALLY in Manila in March 2018 to celebrate International Women's Day.

Martial law in the Philippines was no 'golden age'

By Valmina May and Joy Sales

THE NUMBERS — 70,000 detained, 35,000 tortured, 3,200 killed — represent the victims of President Ferdinand E. Marcos' era of martial law, from 1972 to 1986. They mark one of the darkest periods in the Philippines' history.

That darkness is enveloping the nation and its diaspora once again. In May 2022, 38 years after his family was exiled from the Philippines in the People Power Revolution, Bongbong Marcos Jr. was elected to a six-year presidential term alongside Vice President Sara Duterte, the daughter of former president and authoritarian Rodrigo Duterte.

Marcos and Duterte supporters romanticize martial law as a "golden age," but many Filipinos — including Filipino Americans like us — reject this distortion of history.

This past year's developments in the Philippines require Filipinos and non-Filipinos alike to preserve and reinforce our historical memories of dictatorship. Only through a mass movement that remembers the truth of the past can we confront the present-day threat of the Marcos-Duterte administration.

When Marcos Sr. rose to power in 1965, he posed as a populist but made unpopular decisions. He supported the U.S. war in Vietnam, which allowed for the increased use of U.S. military bases in the Philippines; he devalued the peso relative to the U.S. dollar, increasing prices of basic goods and services for working Filipinos; and he violently put down student protesters who opposed his plans to run for a third term.

In 1972, Marcos declared martial law to bypass the two-term presidential limit, and multiple sectors of Philippine society erupted and exercised their right to political dissent: workers and peasants, youth and students, women, and Indigenous peoples.

Because martial law outlawed protests, activists organized underground to fight for social and political change. Their demands ranged from the restoration of civil liberties to winning a socialist revolution. But they all wanted to end the Marcos dictatorship, and they worked to end human rights abuses, such as political detention and torture, and to halt infrastructure projects that violated Indigenous sovereignty, such as the Chico Dam project.

Mass arrests, especially in the first years of martial law, caused many activists to flee the country and settle in major cities like Los Angeles. This anti-Marcos diaspora met like-minded Filipino Americans who were politicized by the civil rights movement, the antiwar movement, and the labor activism of Filipino farmworkers who migrated as U.S. colonial subjects in the 1920s and '30s.

In the 1970s and '80s, Filipinos in the U.S. and their allies formed organizations such as the Katipunan ng mga Demokratikong Pilipino, National Committee for the Restoration of Civil Liberties in Philippines, Movement for a Free Philippines, and Friends of the Filipino People. They educated the broader U.S. public on the atrocities of the Marcos dictatorship, lobbied Congress to cut military assistance to Marcos, and raised funds to free political prisoners.

Presidents Nixon, Carter and Reagan supported Marcos; as part of the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty, Marcos helped the U.S. maintain its security interests in Southeast Asia, and in return, Marcos received military aid. But eventually he became too great a liability. In 1986, hundreds of thousands of Filipinos joined the People Power Revolution, flooding the streets of Manila to protest Marcos' attempt to steal the election from Corazon Aquino. Outflanked, the Marcoses fled to Hawaii via a U.S. Air Force transport plane.

Nearly 40 years later, Marcos Sr.'s economic policies still hobble the Philippines. Widespread distrust in government, combined with widening class divisions, created the perfect conditions for the return of a fascist government via Rodrigo Duterte in 2016.

During his presidency, from 2016 to 2022, law enforcement and the military under Duterte killed upward of an estimated 30,000 Filipinos as part of a so-called Drug War. Victims of the Drug War are still waiting for the Philippine government to cooperate with the International Criminal Court and hold Duterte accountable, while the current president Marcos has promised to continue his predecessor's campaign of terror.

In 2017, Duterte declared martial law for 60 days in Muslim-majority Mindanao, a historically resource-rich and war-torn region with the highest rates of poverty in the Philippines and a 400-year history of resisting colonial forces.

Faced with another era of fascist rule in the Philippines, activists living abroad are working with organizations such as Bayan USA and Malaya Movement USA to channel the spirit of People Power. On Sept. 20, 2022, Filipino activists held a rally at L.A.'s Unidad Park in Historic Filipinotown to mark the 50th anniversary of the declaration of martial law, to commemorate those killed under the Marcos and Duterte regimes and to protest historical revisionism.

It is crucial at this time to speak out against censorship and share fact-based news, since Marcos Jr., following his father's example, has taken an aggressive stance against press freedom. And it is especially important for Filipinos and our allies in the U.S. to put pressure on the Biden administration to end support of the current Marcos administration through the Philippine Human Rights Act.

The fact that the Filipino masses, with support from progressive media and the U.S. Congress, ousted Marcos Sr. in 1986 suggests that we have the power today to prevent another dark and bloody period.

We have seen history repeat itself in a harrowing way with the return of the Marcoses to Malacañang Palace. But we could also see it repeat with another mass movement that draws on the legacy of people power to rebuild a genuinely democratic Philippines.

VALMINA MAY, an actor, playwright and activist living in Los Angeles, works with Malaya Movement. JOY SALES is assistant professor of Asian American studies at Cal State Los Angeles and serves on the L.A. secretariat of Malaya Movement. This article was produced in cooperation with Zócalo Public Square.

Are prosecutors right to charge Alec Baldwin?

NICHOLAS GOLBERG

OF COURSE ALEC Baldwin shouldn't receive special treatment because he's famous. He shouldn't be treated, as the district attorney in Santa Fe, N.M., put it, as if he were "above the law." There shouldn't be "two legal systems in your county — one for the powerful and one for everyone else," as a New Mexico law professor noted.

Baldwin should be treated like anyone else would be under the strange circumstances he finds himself in.

But at the same time, Baldwin shouldn't be charged or convicted *because* he's a famous actor or because there's political pressure to bring charges or because when someone gets shot, someone else always must be held responsible.

New Mexico prosecutors announced Thursday that they intend to charge Baldwin with involuntary manslaughter in the shooting death of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins with a Colt .45 revolver on the set of the movie "Rust" in October 2021. The gun fired a live round and Hutchins was killed.

To prove involuntary manslaughter, prosecutors don't have to show that the killing was intentional, but they do have to prove that the accused person behaved negligently.

Maybe they have evidence of that. Maybe there are facts I'm unaware of showing that Baldwin's behavior clearly meets the legal standard for conviction. Maybe a jury will agree.

But every now and then we have to acknowledge that accidents are accidents. Tragedies are tragedies. As a society we often have an overwhelming urge to punish someone when something goes wrong. We crave justice, and we imagine that justice must require punishment.

But maybe, sometimes, no one is to blame, frustrating as that may be. Or maybe, in this case, there's someone to blame and that person isn't Baldwin. It's true he was holding and pointing the gun when it went off — but he has said he'd been assured that it was not loaded with live ammunition by those whose job it was to know.

What happened on that day is obviously a clarion call for tighter rules and better safety protocols on the part of everybody on every movie set in the world. What happened to Hutchins must never, ever happen again. (It's hard to believe any actor in the future will point a gun without confirming for themselves that the gun holds no live ammunition.)

But was Baldwin's behavior negligent to the point of criminality? Did he behave "without due caution and circumspection," which is the language of New Mexico law?

The question before the jury seems to be whether a reasonable person would have checked to see whether the gun was loaded with live ammunition — or whether that reasonable person would have taken the word of the weapons handler and others on the set who were in charge of the gun. I've got sympathy in this case for Baldwin, and I'm not sure what would be accomplished by convicting him. (The Santa Fe prosecutor also intends to charge the weapons handler.)

Yes, someone died. That's horrendous, unfair and irreversible. But whether Baldwin was criminally negligent is an entirely different question.

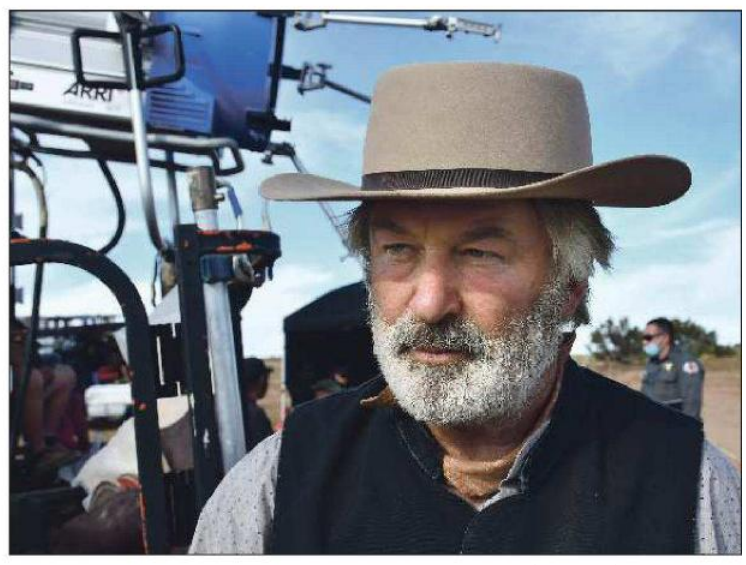
Baldwin says he didn't pull the trigger. Who knows if that's the case; experts have suggested otherwise.

I'm no expert on New Mexico law. Perhaps prosecutors are right to move forward. A trial, I guess, will tell us whether a jury believes beyond a reasonable doubt that there was negligence that merits a conviction and a potential prison sentence.

But I can't help feeling that this could be one of those moments in which we're looking for a culprit to punish, just to satisfy our craving for justice.

Not everyone involved in every tragedy has behaved like a criminal.

@Nick_Goldberg



Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office

ALEC BALDWIN on the "Rust" set immediately following the shooting of Halyna Hutchins and Joel Souza in October 2021.

Biden should let the game of debt ceiling chicken play out

The United States has reached its statutory debt limit; will the GOP raise it?

By Jeffrey Frankel

KENT NISHIMURA Los Angeles Times

TREASURY SECRETARY Janet Yellen

THE UNITED STATES has reached its statutory debt limit of $31.4 trillion. As Washington gears up for yet another partisan showdown over whether to raise the debt ceiling, with congressional Republicans seeking concessions from Democrats in exchange for their votes, many are understandably nonchalant about it. Americans feel they have seen this movie before, and the story usually ends with the bickering politicians reaching a last-minute compromise. So, no need to ring the alarm bells.

But this reboot could have a different, tragic ending. With the U.S. economy barreling toward the cliff's edge, it is clear that intransigent Republicans have no intention of hitting the brakes. This could mean a once-unthinkable U.S. government default.

Unfortunately, letting Republicans drive the U.S. economy off a cliff may be President Biden's best option right now. The U.S. still has at least five months to jump out of the car. Treasury Secretary Janet L. Yellen said last week that she will pursue a set of "extraordinary measures" (all of which have become rather ordinary in recent decades) to postpone America's day of reckoning until early June.

Raising the U.S. debt ceiling does not mean that the government has decided to increase spending. It means only that the government will honor the debt it assumed along with spending and tax decisions that Congress has *already made*. If Congress wants to reduce the budget deficit — a worthy aim — it should cut spending, raise taxes or both.

How should the Biden administration respond in the likely event that Republicans refuse to back down? Several untested (and imperfect) creative solutions that have been proposed during previous debt-ceiling standoffs could enable policymakers to stave off the threat of an imminent Treasury default.

First, Biden could invoke the 14th Amendment and single-handedly raise the debt limit — as former President Clinton suggested during the debt-ceiling standoff of 2011. Adopted in the immediate aftermath of the Civil War and ratified in 1868, the amendment states that the "validity of the public debt of the United States ... shall not be questioned."

The argument for invoking the 14th Amendment is that the debt limit and the spending and tax bills included in the budget clearly contradict each other. Therefore, when forced to choose between these conflicting laws, the executive branch should opt to fulfill the U.S. government's financial obligations and let the courts decide the legality at a later date. The counterargument is that Republicans would accuse Biden of flouting the law in an effort to increase federal spending, the confrontation would trigger a constitutional crisis, and it is unclear how the conservative-dominated Supreme Court would rule.

The Treasury will probably have enough tax revenue to meet at least 80% of already-legislated outlays without borrowing. But which 80% would it cover? Some suggest that prioritizing interest payments to bondholders over other expenses would prevent a default and a rating downgrade, thereby avoiding higher interest rates on future debt.

But even if bondholders continue to be paid, failing to pay other bills on time (for example, to federal contractors and salaried government workers) could be viewed as the U.S. government dodging its legal obligations. Moreover, to keep paying creditors, the government would have to cut big-ticket budget items such as payments to Social Security recipients, Medicare providers and active soldiers. Biden's political opponents could then use that to stir up populist outrage.

Even if the Treasury could prioritize certain payments — such as interest payments, mandatory spending (for instance, Social Security, Medicare and veterans' benefits) and military spending (soldiers' salaries) — those three categories account for at least 85% of federal spending. There would not be enough incoming revenue to pay for all of them. Hypothetically, even if die-hard fiscal hawks managed to eliminate all non-military discretionary spending, the gap between spending and revenue could not be closed without cutting one of the three protected categories.

Do the consequences of a government default outweigh the drawbacks of these gimmick solutions? Ten or 20 years ago, the answer might have been yes. After the 2011 debt standoff provoked S&P to downgrade the U.S. credit rating for the first time, some argued that a default would be so disastrous that avoiding it was worth trying a creative gimmick.

But the world has changed since then. Even if technically workable, these creative solutions would obscure who is to blame. Worse, they would not prevent global markets from doubting the reliability of the U.S. government's commitment to meeting its financial obligations.

Ultimately, Republicans would have to back down. Because the GOP's rebels have become even more intransigent over the last decade, the standoff will probably go down to the wire, and the government may be forced to shirk some obligations for a few days, or even weeks.

By then, perhaps crashing securities markets, outraged beneficiaries and shifting voter attitudes would finally persuade enough holdouts to raise the debt ceiling. In the meantime, we have no choice but to let this game of chicken play out.

JEFFREY FRANKEL is a professor of capital formation and growth at Harvard University and a research associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research.

Braving the stairs or sleeping in lobby

[**Elevator,** from A1]
or remain trapped on the upper floors.

In 2018, after a blind tenant fell more than 12 feet down the open shaft, the elevator was out of service for seven months, according to city records and court testimony. It reopened but soon failed again, remaining broken for the better part of a year. Large-scale repairs started only after building inspectors threatened to turn the case over to the city attorney's office for a criminal investigation.

The foundation is best known as a behemoth in the healthcare industry, with nearly $2 billion in annual revenue earned largely from its chain of pharmacies and clinics. But in recent years, the L.A. nonprofit has become one of the biggest funders of pro-tenant causes in the country, pouring tens of millions of dollars into political campaigns to expand rent control in California and organizing renters against eviction and exploitation by landlords.

The foundation purchased the Madison in 2017 — the first of more than a dozen single-room-occupancy and other apartment complexes it owns on skid row, in Hollywood and in other L.A. neighborhoods. Foundation leaders say their goal has been to provide homes to low-income residents more quickly, cheaply and humanely than private developers, public agencies and other nonprofits.

They've publicized their efforts in full-page advertisements in The Times and through near-daily social media posts, touting their work as "a massive success."

But Madison residents say that the foundation's treatment of them pierces the claims about caring for L.A.'s most vulnerable.

In March 2021, 18 Madison tenants filed a lawsuit over the elevator. They alleged that its failures discriminate against those with disabilities, violating access and civil rights laws. Twelve have settled with the foundation, and one dropped out. The remaining five plaintiffs are seeking millions of dollars in damages and a court order for a judge to oversee permanent repairs to the elevator or force the foundation to install a new one.

A jury trial is scheduled to begin in Los Angeles County Superior Court as soon as Friday. Multiple other lawsuits over conditions at the Madison also are pending.

"In my opinion, the advertisements do not match the actions," said Annette Harings, the tenants' lead attorney. "The righteous indignation of AHF in all of its public advertisements, all of its press releases, all of its legal pleadings pumping themselves up about how awesome they are, does not reflect what is happening at the Madison."

Harings contends that AIDS Healthcare Foundation co-founder and President Michael Weinstein and the group's attorneys have compounded the harm by pushing plaintiffs to accept low-ball offers behind their lawyers' backs. Residents, some of whom have learning disabilities or were behind on their rent, have received settlement packages thousands of dollars less than what the foundation offered when their attorneys were present, court records show.

Weinstein and other foundation executives declined an interview request from The Times. Foundation spokesperson Ged Kenslea said it was too close to the trial and blamed The Times' inquiries on the tenants' lawyers, alleging they were trying to improperly influence the outcome.

"We consider it unethical for counsel on either side to seek to prejudice prospective jurors," Kenslea said.

Foundation lawyers have argued in court filings that the nonprofit operates the Madison as a charitable endeavor and that it has already spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to repair the elevator. Further fixes, they said, would be too costly and are unnecessary because they've offered to move affected tenants to lower floors in the Madison or to other properties. Additionally, AIDS Healthcare Foundation blames the Madison's previous owner for the elevator's failures and the city of Los Angeles for not signing off on proposed repairs fast enough.

The foundation so far has agreed to pay out more than $700,000 to settle with 12 of the tenants in the case.

Photographs by FRANCINE ORR Los Angeles Times

EDWIN LINWOOD, 71, who has lung disease, struggles to breathe as he walks up the stairs at the Madison Hotel. Tenants say that the AIDS Healthcare Foundation's treatment of them belies the nonprofit's claims about caring for Los Angeles' most vulnerable residents.

RICHARD DEVER, 82, had to sit inside his tiny apartment at the Madison for six days — unable to go out for fresh air because the elevator was broken again.

Formed in 1987, the foundation is the largest AIDS nonprofit in the world, providing care through its network of clinics and pharmacies to more than 1.7 million patients across 45 countries. About eight years ago, Weinstein began getting involved in housing battles in L.A. and across the state, contending that luxury real estate developers and corporate speculators are causing California's affordability woes.

The foundation bought the Madison for $8 million. The nearly century-old building has about 200 units across five floors, with most residents sharing common bathrooms. Monthly rent is about $400, an amount below even what other residential hotels on skid row charge. Tenants say that low cost is the main reason they live there despite the problems.

The Madison's elevator relies on the same basic mechanics as when it was built in 1924. Tenants and guests must slide open an exterior door and then a metal gate, both of which must be closed before the cab will start moving.

Its frequent failures have had serious consequences.

One morning in 2018, an employee heard screaming coming from the elevator shaft between the second and third floors. When the employee arrived on the third floor, he found the elevator door open and looked down the shaft to see Kenneth Owens, a legally blind, then-66-year-old tenant, sitting in pain on top of the cab, according to an internal incident report the employee filed.

The elevator door had opened even though the cab wasn't there. Owens took one step, then plummeted.

"Like a cartoon character, like Wile E. Coyote, that puff of smoke when he's running," Owens said in his deposition. "Then my hat was flying in the air and bam, 12 and a half feet down."

The foundation later signed off on paying Owens $125,000 to resolve the matter, according to a settlement reviewed by The Times.

LINWOOD, showing his inhalers, is frustrated that the problems at the Madison have yet to be resolved.

Tenants said in depositions that the elevator outages can dominate their lives. Owens said he has paid other residents to carry him up the stairs when the elevator was out of service. Each trip cost him $40.

Grace Antisdel, a 73-year-old tenant who has asthma and uses a wheelchair, said in a deposition that she slept in the Madison's lobby for more than a month because it was too painful to go up and down the stairs.

Renee Schoen, a former tenant who also uses a wheelchair, said in her deposition that she used to navigate the building by "practically slithering" up its staircases. Even when the elevator was working, she said, it is so small that she couldn't turn her wheelchair around inside and had to roll backward to exit. Once, Schoen didn't realize that the elevator had stopped just short before it reached the lobby and she fell onto the ground.

"The boom backwards hurt my body for a good moment," said Schoen, 54.

The problems at the Madison predate the foundation. Seven months before the sale, Kameron Segal — the building's previous owner — settled a lawsuit filed by more than a dozen tenants who alleged that he had harassed them and failed to make needed improvements. The settlement required immediate repairs any time the elevator malfunctioned.

When the new group of tenants sued the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, it filed a cross-complaint against Segal, alleging he had defrauded the foundation by not disclosing the settlement or problems with the elevator. Segal did not respond to the foundation's lawsuit, and the court issued a default judgment against him. Segal could not be reached for comment by The Times.

Others say that basic due diligence prior to purchasing the building would have revealed both the settlement, which was publicized in news releases, and issues with the elevator. Steve Diaz, deputy director of the Los Angeles Community Action Network, an organizing group that assisted Madison residents in the lawsuit against Segal, said circumstances at the building were common knowledge throughout skid row.

There is no definitive timeline of when the elevator has been out of service. But court records show that it was shut down multiple times for extended periods after the foundation purchased the building and, when operating, has frequently malfunctioned.

In declarations taken both in the spring and fall of 2021, residents described frequent outages, especially on weekends. In interviews, they say it still malfunctions as often as multiple times a week.

The foundation says in court filings that it's already spent more than $400,000 on maintenance, repairs and improvements to the elevator. It blames delays on difficulties in finding parts for such an old elevator and problems with city inspectors.

In a cross-complaint against the city and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, the foundation said inspectors dragged their feet when it needed to upgrade the Madison's power supply, which foundation officials contend was the primary cause for the elevator outages. The foundation asked for damages and for the city to indemnify it in the case brought by tenants. The city and public utility admitted no wrongdoing but paid the foundation $100,000 to settle the case in December.

Mia Rose-Wong, a spokesperson for the utility, denied that power issues caused the elevator problems, saying inspectors did not delay their work and that the utility settled only to save ratepayers the expense of a lengthy trial.

Current problems with the elevator, the foundation says, result from tenants' impatience and errors, primarily when they have to open and close the door and the gate manually.

Replacing the elevator with a new one or making further large-scale repairs would be "an undue hardship such that the cost would be disproportionate to the benefit that would be received," Kyle Maland, an attorney representing the foundation, said in a court filing.

An elevator expert hired by the plaintiffs estimated in a deposition that a new elevator would cost no more than $375,000. The foundation's most recent annual financial report shows that it has more than $200 million in cash on hand and $1 billion in assets.

The Times visited the Madison last month when the elevator was out of service. In the hallways, tenants asked one another if they knew when it was going to work again.

After climbing two flights to his room, Edwin Linwood was breathing heavily. When the elevator is down, Linwood, who suffers from lung disease, needs as many as three inhalers to get through the day.

The 71-year-old was part of the settlement with the previous owner over conditions at the Madison. He feels deep frustration that the problems have yet to be resolved.

"In my opinion, they can't pay me enough," said Linwood, who also suffers from sciatica. "It's not the cash that I want. This is where I live. This is my home. The main objective is to fix the elevator."

Linwood is one of five tenants who so far have refused to settle with the foundation, whose tactics have come under fire in court.

Tom Myers, the AIDS Healthcare Foundation's general counsel, in 2021 made settlement offers directly to tenants in the elevator lawsuit and a related one that alleges overall uninhabitable conditions at the Madison, L.A. County Superior Court Judge Stephanie Bowick found. Bowick determined Myers broke legal ethics obligations by not involving the tenants' attorneys in the discussions. Myers did not respond to a request for comment.

Last July, Weinstein directed the foundation's regional property manager to try to reach deals in the elevator case again without involving the tenants' lawyers. In a sworn statement filed in court, Weinstein said he wanted to exclude Harings.

"It seems to me that Ms. Harings is not looking out for her clients' interests, and instead is manipulating her clients to attack AHF," Weinstein wrote.

Brenda Phillips, a tenant who is still suing, said in a sworn declaration that the property manager invited her into an office at the Madison and offered her $8,000 if she signed a letter about the elevator case.

"I told him I had to read it before I decided to sign it," Phillips said. "But I cannot comprehend what I read because I have a learning disability. So I pretended to read the letter. The letter was a full page of words and a place to sign at the bottom."

Phillips said that she asked for a copy so someone could read it to her, but that the property manager told her he would give her one only after she signed. She declined the offer.

Four other tenants in the lawsuit, however, did sign that paperwork, settling for $8,000 apiece, according to court records and interviews.

A month later, the foundation's attorneys made settlement proposals — this time through Harings — to Phillips and the remaining plaintiffs for $20,000 each. Those were all rejected. In late December, six plaintiffs accepted settlements offered through their attorneys for $80,000 apiece. Last week, two other plaintiffs accepted $100,000 settlements through their attorneys.

William Berry was one of the four tenants who agreed to an $8,000 settlement.

He has arthritis in his knees and often uses a wheelchair. As he spoke with a reporter last month, Berry gripped the railings with both hands and dragged himself up the Madison's stairs to reach his second-floor room.

Berry, 61, said he agreed to the settlement, which also erased his past-due rent, because he needed the money.

He said he was not aware of the higher offers the other tenants received until informed by The Times.

"I wish you hadn't have told me that," Berry said.

CALIFORNIA

Photographs by SUSAN WALSH Associated Press

PRESIDENT BIDEN on the Capitola boardwalk with business owner Jill Ealy and Gov. Gavin Newsom. Since Dec. 26, coastal cities such as Capitola and Santa Cruz have been battered by the sea, rain and wind.

Biden visits California, vows to fix storm damage

The president and governor tour the battered Central Coast

BY TARYN LUNA AND SUSANNE RUST

MOUNTAIN VIEW — During a tour of the storm-ravaged Central Coast, President Biden vowed that federal assistance to rebuild California would not end until the job is complete.

Biden visited the state Thursday and joined Gov. Gavin Newsom and U.S. Sen. Alex Padilla in a helicopter to survey areas battered by winter storms that caused major flooding and landslides across the state.

The president walked along a broken boardwalk in Capitola and spoke with business owners about the estimated $1 billion in damage from the string of storms that started on Dec. 26 and led to at least 22 deaths.

"The federal government is not leaving its responsibility till it's all fixed, it's done," Biden said in Aptos.

The president traveled to the state after issuing an emergency declaration for California that authorizes the Federal Emergency Management Agency to coordinate disaster relief and offering federal aid for recovery efforts through a separate major disaster declaration in the six counties of Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Merced, Sacramento and Santa Cruz.

The governor praised the Biden administration for its support of California during and after atmospheric rivers pummeled the state. The storms ultimately dropped more than 17 inches of rain in San Francisco and 20 inches in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

[See **Biden,** B5]

RESIDENTS WATCH as the president's motorcade arrives in Capitola on Thursday. Noting Biden's support, the governor said: "Trust me, that matters."

Are Apple Watches the new stethoscopes?

Picking my doctor's brain on medical tech

STEVE LOPEZ

It was the middle of the night when my racing heart woke me up. I took deep breaths and tried to relax.

Abnormal heart rhythms are nothing new for me, so I didn't panic when this happened late last year. But extended irregular beats do get my attention, because about 10 years ago, I went into cardiac arrest after knee surgery and had to be resuscitated by a nurse.

Eventually, I fell back asleep, and in the morning I activated a device that reads my pacemaker and sends data to my cardiologist. She quickly made a diagnosis, changed my meds and the racing went away.

In addition to the device that reads my pacemaker, I have a wristwatch that can take an electrocardiogram in 30 seconds and upload it to my smartphone, so I can send the result to my

[See **Lopez,** B4]

FRANCINE ORR Los Angeles Times

DR. LESLIE A. SAXON, a USC cardiologist, gave Times columnist Steve Lopez a crash course on the causes and treatment of cardiac arrest.

L.A. Council set to vote on new tenant protections

Pressure is on to finalize a policy before emergency COVID order expires.

BY JULIA WICK

With Los Angeles' long-standing COVID-19 anti-eviction rules expiring in less than two weeks, the City Council is set to vote Friday on a proposal that would substantially expand permanent protections for tenants.

The council is under enormous pressure to finalize a new policy before the existing emergency order expires at the end of the month.

In an increasingly unaffordable city where most residents rent, many tenants and advocates fear that lifting the order without sufficient protections could spark a wave of evictions. But landlords have argued that they have been unfairly burdened by the rules, with particular hardships for independent owners.

The emergency rules were first passed amid unprecedented disruption at the start of the pandemic, along with similar measures at other levels of government. But Los Angeles' anti-eviction protections remained in place even as other measures expired, with local leaders wary of exacerbating homelessness and overcrowding problems that had already reached crisis proportions.

Members of the City Council seem to generally agree that some new protections should be put in place. But there are varying opinions about what the new policy should look like, potentially setting the stage for some maneuvering during Friday's meeting.

The legislation package that is under consideration would establish a minimum threshold for eviction for tenants who fall behind on rent and require landlords to pay relocation fees in some situations where a large rent increase would result in the tenant's displacement.

Landlords would no longer be allowed to evict tenants in any rental property, including single-family homes, unless there was unpaid rent, documented lease violations, owner move-ins or other specific reasons.

Some renters, including those in rent-stabilized units, already have "just cause" eviction protections, but making them universal would considerably expand the number of tenants covered by the protections.

The proposal would also block evictions until February 2024 for tenants who have unauthorized pets or who added residents who aren't listed on leases, and create a new timeline for paying back rent owed from the emergency period. Tenants would have until Aug. 1 to repay back rent accumulated between March 1, 2020, and Sept. 30, 2021, and until Feb. 1, 2024, to repay back rent accumulated between Oct. 1,

[See **Tenant,** B5]

In positive sign, L.A. avoids spike in COVID cases

Unlike previous two winters, post-holiday wave of infections does not materialize.

BY LUKE MONEY AND RONG-GONG LIN II

In a continuing sign of improvements in coronavirus case counts and hospitalizations, Los Angeles County on Thursday officially entered the low COVID-19 community level, indicating that the pandemic is not exerting undue stress on the local healthcare system.

Recent metrics illustrate a "very different January than expected," a top health official said this week, with continued steady improvements in data instead of a feared post-holiday spike.

Though some figures may be affected by lags in data over the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend, the county has seen marked improvement in its pandemic metrics. And with the winter holidays behind us, it's increasingly apparent that a much-discussed double COVID wave fueled by gatherings and travel has not materialized.

"We're not seeing the post-holiday spike that was expected by the end of the first week in January," L.A. County Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer said Thursday.

"It could be tempting to interpret this as COVID no longer being a concern," she said. "However, the more reasonable explanation is that the new tools and people's behaviors have made a difference in how COVID spreads, and that even small precautions are making a difference as well."

There are a number of possible reasons. Some people who were infected may have had mild symptoms or none at all, so they didn't test. Others may have used an at-home kit to confirm their infection, the results of which are not always reported.

It's also likely many residents remain well-protected, either because they recently were vaccinated or recovered from a coronavirus infection.

Behavioral changes — such as moving gatherings outside, testing before events, wearing a mask in indoor public settings and doubling down on handwashing and other health hygiene efforts — also may have played a role.

L.A. County health officials urged residents returning to work or school post-holidays to mask up for at least 10 days in a bid to stunt potential spread. Ferrer has said she thinks expanded masking, even on a temporary basis, can play a pivotal role in tamping down transmission.

However it happened, it's

[See **COVID,** B2]

Area storm tab: $100 million
L.A. County estimate includes costs of debris removal, road and bridge repairs. **B3**

Gallery owner charged in S.F.
Man was caught on video spraying water from a hose on a homeless woman. **B3**

Rapper alleges unlawful force
Feezy Lebron files a $10-million claim after clash with L.A. County deputies. **B3**

Lottery **B2**

SPORTS ON THE BACK: Chargers quarterback will have a say in hiring process. **B10**

Feared winter COVID spike fails to materialize

[**COVID,** from B1]
apparent this sustained downturn is not merely the byproduct of data haziness.

Even case counts have dropped. For the week that ended Thursday, L.A. County was reporting an average of 1,095 coronavirus cases a day. On a per capita basis, that's 76 cases a week for every 100,000 residents — a rate that's considered "substantial" but no longer "high." It's the first time since mid-November the case rate in L.A. County has dropped from the "high" rate.

The case rate has fallen 41% from the prior week, although it's likely some of that dramatic decline is due to delayed reporting over the MLK weekend.

"We have a very different January than expected," Ferrer said. "And for that, I'm grateful."

Moving into the low community level, as defined by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "is significant, and it reflects reduced risk," she continued, "but it doesn't mean no risk." The low COVID-19 community level indicates that the burden of the pandemic on hospitals is relatively mild.

"My biggest fear is that within this optimism, people who are most vulnerable, those who have been seriously impacted the most by the pandemic, will be left to fend for themselves," she said.

L.A. County was one of 14 California counties to transition into the low COVID-19 community level Thursday. In Southern California, Ventura County made the same transition, and elsewhere were Alameda, Contra Costa, Fresno, Kern, Sonoma, Marin, Butte, Madera, Kings, Humboldt, Tehama and Glenn counties.

Elsewhere in Southern California, San Diego, Orange and Imperial counties remained in the medium level, and Riverside, San Bernardino, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties remained in the low COVID-19 community level.

With this week's update, 71% of Californians now live in counties with a low COVID-19 community level. For the prior week, 28% of Californians did so.

The number of coronavirus-positive patients hospitalized statewide has plummeted since the year began. As of Wednesday, 3,372 such patients were hospitalized statewide, the lowest since late November and a 26% decrease from two weeks ago. Figures include both those admitted specifically for COVID-19 and those who test positive incidentally after seeking care for another reason.

The peak number of coronavirus-positive hospitalizations this winter was 4,648 on Jan. 3. That's a little less than the summer peak of 4,843, set July 26.

If there's no significant resurgence of COVID-19 later this winter, it will be the first time since the pandemic began that a fall-and-winter wave was less severe than the preceding summer's, in terms of hospitalizations.

> 'We have a very different January than expected. And for that, I'm grateful.'
>
> — Barbara Ferrer, L.A. County public health director

Modeling from the California Department of Public Health also estimates that the spread of COVID-19 is probably decreasing statewide and has been trending downward or stable for the last month.

L.A. County mirrors the statewide trends. The 918 coronavirus-positive patients hospitalized as of Wednesday is down 29% from two weeks ago.

The county's fall-and-winter hospitalization peak came Dec. 8, when 1,308 coronavirus-positive patients were in the hospital.

That was also slightly less than the summer peak of 1,329.

Still, the numbers are not insignificant.

"While the impact of COVID on the healthcare system remains manageable and stable, our hospital admission numbers are still about double what was seen in October and early November," Ferrer said.

Deaths also remain a concern. As of Jan. 10, California was reporting 355 COVID-19 deaths per week. Although that has increased lately, it remains below the summer peak of 396 and it's far below last winter's peak, when 1,827 deaths were recorded for the week ending Feb. 27.

Last winter, the first season following the arrival of the Omicron variant, marked California's second-deadliest wave.

L.A. County reported 140 COVID-19 deaths for the week ending Thursday, down from a seasonal peak of 164 for the seven-day period that ended Jan. 13. It's unclear whether that decline is due to a reporting lag over the MLK weekend.

Nationally, COVID-19 is responsible for far many more deaths than flu. The CDC has reported more than 39,000 COVID-19 deaths since the start of October, more than double the estimated 16,000 from flu.

Despite recent downturns in injections, officials are still urging residents to get the updated COVID-19 booster.

Uptake of those bivalent shots has been relatively slow. Just under 16% of eligible Americans have gotten theirs, federal data show. A larger, but still light 23% of Californians have done likewise.

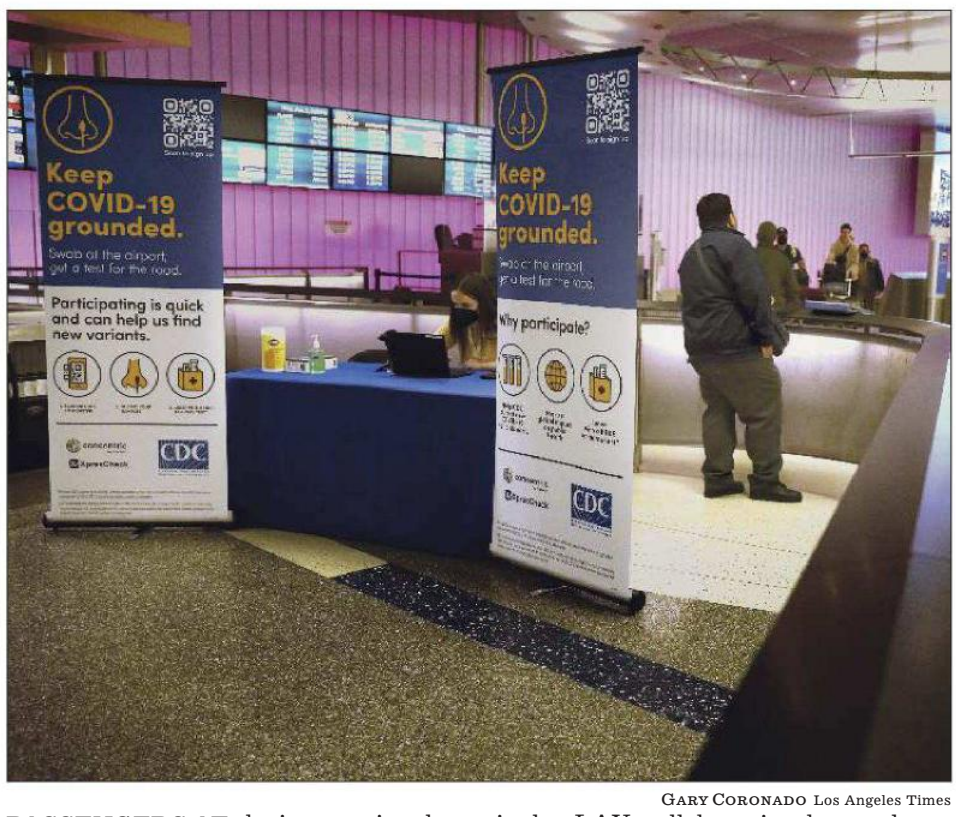
According to state data compiled by The Times, California saw a momentary surge in vaccine administration in mid-September — when the updated boosters became available — that continued for about two months. But the number of new doses going into arms has dwindled since.

This could be because some vaccination sites were closed over the holidays. But it also could point to public indifference.

An online survey of 1,200 previously vaccinated Americans — the results of which were published Thursday by the CDC — found that the most common reasons individuals cited for not getting the updated booster were that they were not aware the shots were available or that they were eligible to get them; or they believed they were still well-protected from infection or severe disease.

Others cited uncertainty about the booster's effectiveness or concerns about possible side effects.

"A bivalent booster can provide protection for yourself, and it reduces the chances of serious illness from COVID-19," Ferrer said. "This is especially important for those in our community who are older or have underlying conditions."


Keep COVID-19 grounded.
Swab at the airport, get a test for the road.
Participating is quick and can help us find new variants.
CDC
Keep COVID-19 grounded.
Why participate?
CDC

Gary Coronado Los Angeles Times

PASSENGERS AT the international terminal at LAX walk by a site that pools test samples from incoming travelers to search for coronavirus variants.

Lottery results

Tonight's Mega Millions estimated jackpot: $20 million
Sales close at 7:45 p.m.

For Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2023

SuperLotto Plus
Mega number is **bold**

3-7-21-34-40—**Mega 22**
Jackpot: $25 million

Winners per category:

	No. of winners	Amount of prize(s)
5 + Mega	0	—
5	0	—
4 + Mega	10	$1,855
4	381	$81
3 + Mega	530	$52
3	14,300	$9
2 + Mega	6,889	$10
1 + Mega	33,010	$2
Mega only	49,141	$1

Powerball
Powerball number is **bold**

6-15-22-42-47—**Powerball 26**
Jackpot: $439 million

California winners per category:

	No. of winners	Amount of prize(s)
5 + P-ball	0	—
5	0	—
4 + P-ball	3	$17,493
4	76	$345
3 + P-ball	132	$206
3	4,365	$7
2 + P-ball	3,468	$8
1 + P-ball	25,407	$5
P-ball only	59,073	$4

Winning jackpot ticket(s) sold in other states: None

For Thursday, Jan. 19, 2023

Fantasy Five: 6-18-28-32-39

Daily Four: 3-6-0-2

Daily Three (midday): 8-3-3

Daily Three (evening): 7-9-1

Daily Derby:
(6) Whirl Win
(2) Lucky Star
(7) Eureka
Race Time: 1:47.48

Results on the internet:
www.latimes.com/lottery

General information:
(800) 568-8379
(Results not available at this number)

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FRANCINE ORR Los Angeles Times

GERARDO MEDINA, 21, helps to remove water inside L.A.'s Union Station after the recent series of storms. State and local governments can be reimbursed up to 75% by the federal government for the cost of repairs.

Storm damage repairs at $100 million and rising

L.A. County estimate includes costs of debris removal, road and bridge fixes.

BY SUMMER LIN

MYUNG J. CHUN Los Angeles Times

TWO VEHICLES fell into a sinkhole on Iverson Road in Chatsworth on Jan. 9, trapping four people. The hole was at least 50 feet wide and 30 feet deep.

Repairs in Los Angeles County after a string of storms battered the state for weeks could cost more than $100 million, according to county officials.

A preliminary assessment estimated the cost to be $100 million for repairs for public property, but county spokesperson Emily Montanez said that number has already gone up and will probably continue to climb.

"This is a big-time crunch in the beginning because local counties and cities have to make a proclamation to make sure they're eligible for reimbursement down the line," said Montanez, associate director for the county's Office of Emergency Management.

"This is a starting phase, and over the next few months and years the number will be more accurate. This was a large enough rain event, where, yes, that $100-million figure will only continue to grow."

The estimate includes the cost for debris removal, emergency protective measures, debris basins, roads, bridges and public buildings, Montanez said.

Residents are still working with insurance companies or vendors to determine the scope of the damage to their private property, and those figures haven't been included in the price tag yet.

President Biden approved an Expedited Major Disaster Declaration last week, ordering federal aid to be provided to recovery efforts in areas of California that were affected by the storms. All of the state's 58 counties are able to access hazard mitigation assistance, meaning that state and local governments and specific nonprofits can receive federal aid to reduce risk to life and property.

State and local governments can be reimbursed up to 75% by the federal government for the cost of repair and other necessities. Federal assistance will also provide individuals programs based on need and how much residents have.

In Merced, Sacramento, Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties, residents will have federal assistance to repair or replace damaged property; nonprofit organizations in those counties will get federal aid to conduct debris removal and other emergency work.

In L.A. County, much of the damage was to roads and bridges, as well as to the cities near foothills where there were recent fires and mudflows.

County representatives will continue to go out in teams in the next few months to conduct assessment, Montanez said.

Another storm is expected to move across the Central Coast on Thursday, dropping as much as nearly a quarter of an inch or rain in the foothills and mountains and a tenth of an inch everywhere else, according to the National Weather Service. As the system continues to move south, it'll lose much of its steam and will result in very little if any rain in southeastern Santa Barbara County and western L.A. County.

A coastal flood advisory has been issued for the Central Coast until at least Friday because of morning high tides that could reach as high at 7.8 feet before peaking between Friday and Sunday, according to the weather service. Winds could reach about 29 mph, while waves are expected to range from 6 to 10 feet along the Central Coast and 4 to 7 feet near the Los Angeles coast.

The tides could result in minor coastal flooding and erosion through the week and inundate low-lying areas with seawater. The weather service has advised residents to protect flood-prone property and to refrain from driving into flooded areas or around barricades.

Montanez said that crews conducting repairs and clean up are constantly monitoring weather conditions to prepare for any such events.

"Being a coastal area, that's a concern," she added. "They do a good job of coordinating with the weather service to ensure they're getting accurate information and the likelihood that we'll experience events like that. The county is well-prepared."

Rapper's lawsuit accuses deputies

Feezy Lebron alleges illegal force was used in a New Year's Eve confrontation.

BY SALVADOR HERNANDEZ

A local rapper has filed a $10-million claim against the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department after deputies pointed a handgun at the unarmed motorist while warning him he would get "one to the chest" during a tense confrontation on New Year's Eve.

Darral Scott, also known as Feezy Lebron, alleges in the claim that the deputies used unlawful force to illegally detain him and search him and his car, and threatened to kill him, leaving him traumatized, unable to sleep and suffering panic attacks.

"I was scared to death," Scott said during a press conference Wednesday, after the claim was filed. "I didn't think I was going to make it home to see my kids."

The confrontation is already the subject of an internal investigation, the department said in a statement.

Sheriff's officials said in a statement that they had yet to receive a copy of the claim and could not comment on pending litigation.

According to the Sheriff's Department, two deputies approached Scott while he was sitting in his car at about 5:45 p.m. in the 14900 block of Crenshaw Boulevard in Gardena.

The deputies had noted there was a missing license plate on the vehicle, but body camera footage released by the department shows the incident quickly escalated, with one deputy pointing his handgun into the car while Scott had his hands raised.

Video shows one deputy reaching into the car as if to pull Scott out. The second deputy then approaches the driver's side of the car and starts to shake a can of pepper spray.

"All right, I'm just gonna spray him, dude, watch out," he tells his partner.

"Get out or you're getting sprayed."

"Get out for what?" Scott is heard asking repeatedly.

The deputy then pulls out his handgun and points it at Scott, according to the footage.

"You take off in this car, I'm [gonna] shoot you," the deputy said.

"I'm going to make it super easy on you. You put this car on drive, you're getting one to the chest. I don't care what you got, I don't care if you got bull— on you but, guess what bro, now you gotta deal with it."

Scott is handcuffed and detained.

He was released with a ticket for a missing license plate.

According to the claim, which is usually filed as a precursor to a lawsuit, attorneys for Scott say he suffered pain and bruising from the handcuffs, and anguish and terror at having his life threatened.

"[Scott] continues to suffer panic attacks, is unable to sleep, and is afraid to drive," the claim reads.

The claim also alleges that days after the incident, deputies forced him to wait more than four hours at a Sheriff's Department office when he tried to file a complaint over the incident.

The deputies, according to the claim, "retaliated against him, including by lying to him about their purported inability to take his complaint."

Man who sprayed hose at homeless woman is arrested

BY CHRISTIAN MARTINEZ AND NATHAN SOLIS

A San Francisco gallery owner who was caught on video spraying a homeless woman with a hose has been arrested and charged, authorities said Wednesday.

Collier Gwin, 71, faces a charge of misdemeanor battery after being accused of intentionally and unlawfully spraying water on a woman who was sitting on a sidewalk outside his gallery, according to the San Francisco district attorney's office, which said it issued an arrest warrant for Gwin after reviewing the evidence from a police investigation.

Gwin was arrested at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday and was booked at a county jail. The case remains an open investigation, police said in a statement.

Video from the Jan. 9 incident shows Gwin leaning against a fence, one leg crossed over the other, spraying a homeless woman with a hose while she sits outside his business, the Foster Gwin Gallery in the North Beach neighborhood of San Francisco.

The woman tries to block the water with her hands as she speaks, but her words are not decipherable.

Gwin stops spraying to point down the street and says, "Hey, just move. Move. Move. Move. OK, are you going to move? Are you going to move?"

The video was posted to Twitter and TikTok, garnering millions of views and prompting public outcry and a police investigation.

The woman who was sprayed did not seek to file charges against Gwin, according to the district attorney's office, but prosecutors said Wednesday that they had enough evidence to proceed.

The woman, known to homeless service providers and officials as "Q," was hospitalized last week, the San Francisco Chronicle reported, but it was unclear what she was being treated for.

After the video went viral, the window at Gwin's gallery was shattered, according to the district attorney's office.

"The alleged battery of an unhoused member of our community is completely unacceptable. Mr. Gwin will face appropriate consequences for his actions," Dist. Atty. Brooke Jenkins said in a statement. "Likewise, the vandalism at Foster Gwin Gallery is also unacceptable and must stop."

Gwin could not be reached for comment Wednesday. It's unclear whether the gallery remains open.

On Monday, ABC7 in San Francisco reported that Gwin apologized for spraying the woman days after he had said he found it "hard to apologize."

"I know it's very hard to watch. I can only ask others to maybe better understand my breaking point," Gwin told the news outlet.

In an interview with the San Francisco Chronicle last week, Gwin admitted that he sprayed the woman with water, alleging that she had turned over garbage cans in front of his gallery.

"I said, 'You have to move; I cannot clean the street; move down,' " Gwin told the Chronicle.

Gwin alleged that the woman became "belligerent" and began spitting.

"At that point she was so out of control ... I spray her with the hose and say, 'Move, move, I will help you,' " he said.

Gwin claimed that he had let the woman sleep in his gallery's entryway multiple times and had contacted police and social services to try to get her help, calling himself a "champion," the Chronicle reported.

"So am I sorry? I'm only sorry that ... my way of helping her countlessly has gotten nothing done," Gwin told the Chronicle.

If convicted, Gwin could face up to six months in county jail and a $2,000 fine, prosecutors said.

Murder charge in immigrant's killing

Ventura County suspect knew victim and was using his debit card, police say.

BY NATHAN SOLIS

A 38-year-old Camarillo man was charged in the killing of a Honduran immigrant after police learned he was using the dead man's debit card, according to Ventura County officials.

Rotherie Durell Foster was charged Wednesday with the murder of 35-year-old José Antonio Velásquez, who was last seen July 27 and reported missing three days later, according to the district attorney's office.

Foster was arrested in August on fraud charges when investigators learned that after Velásquez was reported missing, Foster used Velásquez's debit card and checking account at gas stations, retail businesses and a deli in L.A. County. Hikers discovered Velásquez's body in October off Mulholland Drive in the Santa Monica Mountains, according to prosecutors. He had been shot multiple times. Prosecutors say the murder was carried out for financial gain.

Around the time of the killing, Foster was arrested as a felon in possession of a 9-millimeter handgun, Dist. Atty. Erik Nasarenko announced. Foster previously served 16 years in prison for voluntary manslaughter and assault, authorities said.

Velásquez and Foster worked as plumbers and knew each other.

Initially, Velásquez was reported as a missing person, but then investigators learned about the unauthorized use of his debit card and checking account.

Velásquez, a native of Tegucigalpa, Honduras, settled in Simi Valley in 2016, where he also worked as a plumber. In October 2021, he obtained his general contractor's license and eventually moved into his own apartment in Camarillo.

He was reported missing after not answering his phone, according to family members who spoke with The Times. His last known location was near Janss Marketplace in Thousand Oaks on July 27, where he met with some friends for beer.

Authorities found Velásquez's work van Aug. 1, about four miles from Janss Marketplace.

Family and friends had held several vigils for Velásquez, who had left Honduras when he was 15 and was a recipient of the federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program.

In 2002, Foster was sentenced to 16 years in prison for voluntary manslaughter when he was a juvenile, according to prosecutors. He was sentenced again in 2004 on two counts of assault, according to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. In 2018, he was released on parole and in November 2020 was discharged from parole after serving his sentence.

Foster was charged with 11 counts Wednesday, including murder with a special circumstance, being a felon in possession of a firearm, seven counts of identity theft and two counts of forgery.

Foster will be arraigned Feb. 17 and prosecutors will ask that no bail be granted.

Times staff writers Soudi Jiménez and Alexandra Petri contributed to this report.

Picking my doctor's brain while she examines my heart

[**Lopez,** from B1]
doctor.

These and other devices designed to monitor various health problems are already widely in use or in development. So much so that a just-published story by Kaiser Health News asked the question: "Will your smartphone be the next doctor's office?"

The short answer is no. Net yet anyway, with lots of unanswered questions about accuracy, privacy, cybersecurity, Food and Drug Administration approval, insurance coverage, commercialization of good health, and fair access to costly devices. And technology can be glitchy and a headache, sometimes driving up rather than lowering my blood pressure.

But along with the challenges and risks, there's big potential in technology that gives patients a greater role in monitoring their own health and gives doctors another tool to better manage patients.

As it happens, I had a regular checkup with my cardiologist, Dr. Leslie A. Saxon, on Tuesday, and she agreed in advance to give me refresher courses on the benefits and challenges of medical technology, and on what people should know about the causes and treatment of cardiac arrest. The recent collapse of Buffalo Bills player Damar Hamlin and the death of Lisa Marie Presley both involved cardiac arrest.

Saxon's aide placed a wand-like sensor over my pacemaker and studied the readout of what my heart has been up to the last few months. Every little hiccup is recorded, helping Saxon determine the frequency, type and duration of irregular rhythms. Saxon had me draw deep breaths as she listened in with a stethoscope, and while she studied my heart, I picked her brain.

Saxon, who doctors at Keck Medicine of USC, is a professor, clinical scholar and executive director of the USC Center for Body Computing, whose mission is to develop ways by which technology can "make healthcare more personal, affordable and accessible for all." In other words, she was the perfect person to answer my questions.

Saxon told me that about a year and a half ago, she was on a flight to Los Angeles that had just left North Carolina when a woman near her collapsed.

"She's not conscious, but I can feel a weak pulse," Saxon said, recalling the emergency.

The doctor removed her Apple Watch, put it on the unconscious woman's wrist, and placed the woman's finger on the little nub that detects heart function. (It's the process I use when I have an arrhythmia.) The reading from Saxon's watch went to her phone, and she knew exactly what was happening.

"I see that she's in this rhythm called atrial fibrillation," said Saxon, who asked a flight attendant for a saline solution from the plane's medical supply kit. Saxon started an IV and the woman, a diabetic, soon recovered. "I just stayed with her, and she's fine, and we take her to California and we didn't have to turn the plane around."

Of course, collapsing next to a cardiologist is not something you can plan in advance. But Saxon's story illustrates the value of having the ability to run an EKG if you're not feeling right. You do, however, have to then hope your doctor or an assistant quickly sees the reading.

There's also the bigger societal question of what to do for those who can't afford expensive electronic gadgets or don't have access to quality healthcare.

There are no easy short-term answers when it comes to the decades-long shortcomings of the healthcare system. But Saxon believes it's possible to shake up "traditional medicine" and make greater use of available technology for everyone's benefit, while simultaneously tackling issues of data privacy and commercial profiteering.

"If we're going to get the outcomes that we really want, we need to get to disease earlier and engage patients in their own care

> 'We're going to have to realize that buying a $1,000 watch and an iPhone with a data plan is cheaper than one ER visit.'
>
> — Dr. Leslie A. Saxon, cardiologist and executive director of the USC Center for Body Computing

and understanding, so we're going to have to do untraditional things," she said, pointing to her watch, which cost about $1,000. (Mine cost less than half that amount.)

"We're going to have to realize," Saxon said, "that buying a $1,000 watch and an iPhone with a data plan is cheaper than one ER visit."

Excellent point, but neither logic nor improved health outcomes drive healthcare policymaking.

Saxon, a swimmer who's in good health, gave another example of how people can use technology to manage their own health. She's not diabetic, but she has worn a continuous glucose monitor patch to study her body's response to specific foods.

When eating bagels and cream cheese, for example, her glucose spiked to levels that surprised her.

"That increases my risk by 5% to 10% of getting diabetes," she said. "I've always loved that kind of food, right? But when I saw what it was doing to me, I kind of don't crave it anymore."

Saxon became my cardiologist after my brief visit to the other side in 2012 immediately following knee replacement surgery. I was quickly resuscitated in post-op, and Saxon said my cardiac arrest was probably caused by a confluence of factors related to pain, anesthesia and my longstanding heart rhythm issues.

In lay terms, cardiac arrest is an electrical problem and a heart attack is a plumbing problem, but the two are often connected.

"As you get older, your risk of cardiovascular death increases, and the majority of cardiac arrests are due to a heart attack," Saxon said. "So one thing you can do as you get older is get screened for your risk of heart disease, hypertension, high cholesterol — and get a stress test if indicated. ... You'll take care of a lot of risk, and you can push out your bad event for years and years."

And then, Saxon said, there's the obvious. Exercise, maintain a healthy diet, limit alcohol, don't smoke, watch your weight.

Cardiac arrest can strike at any age, and if you're with someone who goes down, what should you do?

Well, we're not doctors, so we can't diagnose the cause of the collapse. But we can make sure someone calls 911, then make sure the person's airways are cleared and begin chest compressions. If the problem is cardiac arrest, the CPR can push blood through the body and keep the person alive until professional help and defibrillators arrive.

According to the American Heart Assn., cardiac arrest was a factor in more than 370,000 deaths in the U.S. in 2019, but Saxon said doing the right thing in the first few minutes can save a life. And anybody can learn the basics of CPR. You can check out *redcross.org*, and the heart association also has a ton of good information at *cpr.heart.org*.

As for my checkup, Saxon ordered up a stress test for me, just to stay on top of things. But in general, she said, I'm relatively healthy, so this does not figure to be my last Golden State column.

steve.lopez@latimes.com

GOLDEN STATE

California is about to be hit by an aging population wave, and Steve Lopez is riding it. His new column will focus on the blessings and burdens of advancing age — and how some folks are challenging the stigma associated with older adults.

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Los Angeles Times

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LEGAL NOTICES 1300

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR A CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NO. 23STCP00001
Petitioner or Attorney (name, state, bar, and address):
Grant Adam Hoechst
2117 S Spaulding Ave Los Angeles, CA 90016
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED:
Petitioner Grant Adam Hoechst filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present Name
Grant Adam Hoechst
Proposed Name
Grant Hoechst Jackson
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING
DATE: February 27, 2023
TIME: 9:30am
DEPT: 26
ROOM: 316
The address of the court is: SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA County of Los Angeles Stanley Mosk Courthouse, 111 North Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county.
Dated: January, 03, 2023
David w Slayton
Executive Officer / Clerk of Court
Published in the Los Angeles Times 01/13/23, 01/20/23, 01/27/23, 02/03/23

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR A CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NO. 23STCP00003
Petitioner or Attorney (name, state, bar, and address):
Juliet Arleen Nelson
2117 S Spaulding Ave, Los Angeles CA, 90016
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED:
Petitioner Juliet Arleen Nelson filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present Name
Juliet Arleen Nelson
Proposed Name
Juliet Nelson Jackson
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING
DATE: March, 06, 2023
TIME: 10:00am
DEPT: 72
ROOM: 731
The address of the court is: SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA County of Los Angeles Los Angeles Superior Court, 111 North Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county.
Dated: January, 03, 2023
David w. Slayton
Executive Officer / Clerk of Court
Published in the Los Angeles Times 01/13/23, 01/20/23, 01/27/23, 02/03/23

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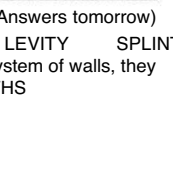

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Legal Notices

SUMMONS
(CITACION JUDICIAL)
CASE NUMBER *(Número del Caso)*: 21NWLC39773

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:
(AVISO AL DEMANDADO):
YOUNGGUN CHUNG

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:
(LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):
WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center *(www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp)*, your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.
There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can located these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site *(www.lawhelpcalifornia.org)*, the California Courts Online Self-Help Center *(www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp)*, or by contacting your local court or county bar association. **NOTE**: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of $10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.
¡AVISO! *Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su version. Lea la información a continuación.*
Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presenter una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo prolegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puedo encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de extención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y hiener sin más advertencia.
Hay otros requisites legales. Es recommendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remission a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisites para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin lines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin lines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos extentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de $10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

The name and address of the court is:
(El nombre y dirección de la corte es):
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
12720 NORWALK BLVD.
NORWALK, CA 90650

The name, address, and telephone number of the plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is:
(El nombre, la dirección y el número del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abodgado, es):
Claudia Gavrilescu, Esq. (CA bar No.: 333030)
REESE LAW GROUP
3168 Lionhead Avenue
Carlsbad, CA 92010
760/842-5850 (File No. 566234)

DATE *(Fecha)*: 10/29/2021
Clerk (Secretario), by J. MASCARENHAS, Deputy (Adjunto) (SEAL)
12/30/22, 1/6, 1/13, 1/20/23

CNS-3656337#
Published in the Los Angeles Times

Legal Notices

SUMMONS
(CITACION JUDICIAL)
Case Number (Numero del Caso): 22STCV29670

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:
(AVISO AL DEMANDADO):
The testate and intestate successors of Emmat Wannell Knapp, deceased, and all persons claiming by, through, or under such decedent; all persons unknown claiming any legal or equitable right, title, estate, lien, or interest in the property, described as Northwest 75 feet of Lot 13, Block 18, Pasadena Villa Tract, City of Los Angeles, County of Los Angeles, California as per Map recorded in Book 3, Pages 5 to 8 of Maps in the Office of the County Recorder (accessor's parcel number 5302-024-013).

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:
(LO ESTA DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):
Charles R. Faudree; and Diana L. Elizondo

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.
There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web Site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of $10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.
¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 dias, la corte puede decider en su contra sin escuchar su version. Lea la informacion a continuacion.
Tiene 30 DIAS DE CALENDARIO despues de que le entreguen esta citacion y papeles legales para presenter una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefonica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y mas informacion en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentacion, pida al secretario de la corte que le de un formulario de exencion de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podra quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin mas advertencia.

The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y direccion de la corte es):
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
111 North Hill Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la direccion y el numero de telefono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):
Fredrick A. Rafeedie, Jones Bell
601 S. Figueroa Street, Suite 3460
Los Angeles, CA 90017
213-485-1555

Date: (Fecha) 9/12/2022

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JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NHETT
WRANP
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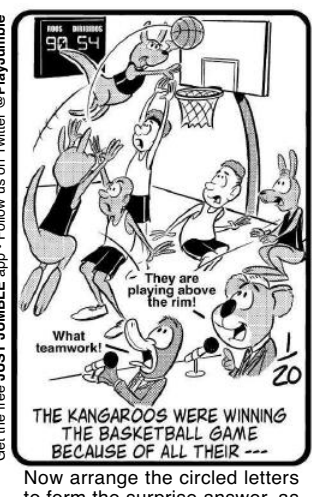

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

"◯◯-◯◯◯-◯◯◯◯◯◯"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GRAVY WEIGH LEVITY SPLINT
Answer: To build China's famous system of walls, they went to — GREAT LENGTHS

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Council set to vote on expanded protections for tenants

[**Tenant,** from B1]
2021, and Jan. 31, 2023.

The package is currently slated to be voted on as a single item, though it's possible one or more council members could attempt to bifurcate sections of it during Friday's meeting.

Landlords have been technically barred from evicting tenants for most reasons since March 2020 under the emergency rules, but the process has been uneven and marred by confusion.

After remaining starkly below pre-pandemic levels through 2021, countywide eviction filings surged in 2022. The number of eviction filings countywide in November and December outpaced or roughly equaled the number of filings during those same months in 2018 and 2019, according to L.A. County Superior Court records compiled by Kyle Nelson, a postdoctoral researcher at UCLA who has tracked them during the pandemic.

Tenants rights groups have rallied behind the full set of protections, while many business groups have opposed some or all of the package.

"We're obviously opposed to the entire thing," said Daniel Yukelson, executive director of the Apartment Assn. of Greater Los Angeles.

But Bijan Ghaemi, a tenant organizer with Community Power Collective, argued that "tenants stand to lose much, much more than landlords."

"Many stand to lose their lives and risk their physical and mental health, so these council members should be focused on preserving people's physical and mental well-being and not preserving investments," Ghaemi said at a recent council committee meeting.

Debate on the issue has also highlighted the political fault lines on the council, where an increasingly vocal progressive bloc has occasionally butted heads with more politically moderate council members. Five new council members took their seats in December — including Hugo Soto-Martínez and Eunisses Hernandez, who unseated established incumbents with insurgent campaigns that focused, in part, on tenants rights.

Speaking at a tenant rights rally outside City Hall on a chilly morning last week, Councilmember Nithya Raman noted the new makeup of the council as she outlined the wins she and her allies hoped to achieve. Raman was joined at the rally by Soto-Martínez, Hernandez and Councilmember Heather Hutt, who vowed to "beg our colleagues" to pass the protections.

The legislation package was debated in the council's Housing and Homelessness Committee on Wednesday, which ultimately recommended approval after some line-item amendments.

Raising objections about potential unintended negative effects on short-term rentals, Councilmember Bob Blumenfield fought to change language in the draft ordinance on just cause evictions to have the provisions kick in when a lease expires, or after 12 months, whichever comes first.

The provision, which was originally set to go into effect immediately, would bar landlords from evicting tenants unless there was unpaid rent, documented lease violations, owner move-ins or other specific reasons.

The amendment eventually succeeded on a 3-2 vote over the objections of Raman, the committee's chair.

If passed, several aspects of the legislation would be particularly impactful for tenants who live in apartments that don't fall under the city's rent stabilization rules, which generally apply only to apartments built before October 1978.

Times staff writer Liam Dillon contributed to this report.

SUSAN WALSH Associated Press

PRESIDENT BIDEN talks with Chuck Maier, owner of Paradise Beach Grille in Capitola, Calif., part of a storm-damage survey that also took him to Aptos.

Warm welcome for Biden's help

[**Biden,** from B1]

It was San Francisco's second-wettest three-week period since 1862.

"Trust me, that matters," Newsom said of Biden's support, adding that the president called him during the storms. "When you're cynical, again, around government, relationships, where you feel like things are frayed, things have become too polarized, I hope you'll consider these moments."

Newsom said the collaboration between the state and federal government defines "the best of who we are."

Biden's visit and governor's comments marked a break in the subtle political tension between the up-and-coming California governor and a president who has yet to announce his plans to run for reelection in 2024.

Newsom made a national splash over the summer for criticizing Republican governors for criminalizing abortion, using immigrants as political pawns and restricting voting rights and at the same time needled Democratic leaders for not launching a stronger response.

The governor was careful to later clarify that his comments were not directed at Biden, though he continued his campaign to implore his party to be more aggressive politically and repeatedly took swings at Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, a potential GOP presidential candidate and, to a lesser extent, Gov. Greg Abbott of Texas.

Mike Madrid, a Republican political consultant, described Newsom's actions as "natural jockeying" and "legitimate for a new generation to be not only poking at whether or not Biden's going to be running, but really positioning if he weren't going to be."

Though Biden has not made any official announcements, he is expected to run again. Newsom has repeatedly denied having any interest in running for president in 2024.

Newsom's frustration with his own party resonated with rank-and-file Democrats, many of whom were angry over the Supreme Court decision to overturn the national right to abortion and were tired of the feeble response to attacks by the GOP.

"The more he sets himself as the tip of the spear, the more it helps his positioning as an heir apparent, or as somebody who's going be viable nationally," Madrid said. "I think what he's doing tactically is right and helps Biden because what it does is it sets a contrast in the race with the extreme elements of the Republican Party."

Biden has stepped up his own warnings to the country that American democracy remains in peril, singling out former President Trump and his supporters.

The president placed Newsom in a difficult position in September when he offered an unusual show of support for a bill approved by the California Legislature to make it easier for farmworkers to organize. The bill, known as the California Agricultural Labor Relations Voting Choice Act, was on Newsom's desk and the governor had been grappling with whether to sign the legislation. His office had previously said that he didn't support the bill language as the proposal moved through the Legislature.

Newsom ultimately signed the bill into law. Madrid called the president's decision to support the farmworker bill a "pop on the snout" from Biden. Months later, Newsom traveled to the Mexican border days after Biden came under fire from the GOP for visiting Arizona and not stopping at the border.

Newsom has never been afraid of pushing his party where he thinks it needs to go. Madrid pointed to Newsom's support for gay marriage in 2004 and the resulting blame he received for John Kerry's presidential loss as an example.

Biden touched down midday at Moffett Federal Airfield in Mountain View, where Newsom, Padilla and U.S. Rep. Anna G. Eshoo (D-Menlo Park) greeted him.

Shortly after noon, the president's helicopter, and four others, rose over the airfield and turned southwest toward the mountains and coast to survey the damage.

The president met with business owners and local residents affected by the storms in Capitola and spoke with first responders and state and local officials about recovery in Aptos.

Assembly Republican Leader James Gallagher of Yuba City encouraged the president and governor to prioritize infrastructure projects despite any environmental concerns.

"Newsom and Biden's allies on the far left continue to throw up roadblocks to improving critical infrastructure," he said in a statement. "Everything from fuels reduction projects that protect communities from wildfire to water storage get bogged down in red tape. This is a matter of safety."

Along the California coast, cities such as Santa Cruz, Capitola and Fort Bragg were battered by storm surge, rain and wind. Iconic wharfs, restaurants, sidewalks and roads collapsed under towering surf, while streets, parks, homes and shops were flooded by powerful waves.

Meanwhile, rivers in Sa-

> 'When you're cynical, again, around government, relationships, where you feel ... things have become too polarized, I hope you'll consider these moments.'
>
> — Gov. Gavin Newsom

linas, Merced and Sacramento counties swelled and spilled over their banks — turning farmland, whole city blocks and neighborhoods into lakes upon which first responders required jet skis, boats and canoes to evacuate stranded Californians.

And in the coastal mountains, from the Bay Area south to Ventura, drought-stressed trees fell across roads and houses — isolating entire neighborhoods — while debris flows, mudslides and sinkholes blocked traffic and spurred dozens of evacuations. More than 500 landslides were recorded across California in the last few weeks.

Vice President Kamala Harris announced her plans to follow Biden's visit with her own trip to Southern California on Friday.

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Los Angeles Times

BERCHIN, Marion

December 8, 1928 - December 31, 2022

Marion C. Berchin

Marion Berchin grew up in the Los Feliz area of Los Angeles. She loved horseback riding, and frequented Dubroks stable in Griffith Park. She attended John Marshall High School, and later went to UCLA and UC Berkeley where she majored in Spanish and minored in French. World War II erupted while Marion was in junior high school. The men in her high school graduation class were noticeably absent from her graduation picture, as they were all serving overseas. She frequented the Hollywood USO, and would bring servicemen home to meet her mother and have coffee. Ironically, she later married a veteran.

When she was 20, she went on a 4-month trip to South America with her mother who was on sabbatical from her job as Supervisor of Foreign Languages for the L.A. City Schools. They met the top educators and people in the government who treated them like foreign dignitaries.

Her father was a prominent Hollywood Dentist who had many movie stars for patients. Because of her mother's knowledge of different languages, the family had an "open lifestyle," where people from all over the world would come and visit and were always welcome which Marion appreciated and which expanded her world view.

In 1948, Marion met her future husband on a blind date. It was "love at first sight." They considered eloping to Las Vegas that night, but didn't have enough money. They married 3 months later. They were married for 67 years.

After graduating from UCLA, Marion went back to school for a year to get a teaching credential, because teachers were in demand after the War. She taught the 6th grade for the L.A. City schools, and also volunteered to teach reading in housing projects for disadvantaged students. In her first year of teaching, she became a demonstration teacher.

In 1965, she and Jerry built a house overlooking the San Fernando Valley, where they lived for 55 years.

Marion and Jerry traveled extensively to different places around the world, and were one of the first Americans to visit China after Nixon opened relations there.

Marion was an avid reader. The whole family liked to sing, and were members of different choral groups, including Marion's joining a group at UC Berkeley.

Marion lived her life with grace, treated everyone as an equal and was a strong proponent of the civil rights movement. She passed these traits onto her children. Unfortunately, her youngest son, Timothy, passed away during the coronavirus pandemic. She is survived by her oldest son, Jeffrey, her brother, John, and numerous cousins. Donations can be made on Marion's behalf to NARSAD, a mental health research organization.

BREITING, Thomas Eugene

1943 - 2022

A resident of Manhattan Beach for 36 years, Tom was born and grew up in the college town of Grinnell, Iowa. After graduating high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, honorably discharged as Sergeant. He holds a diploma from the U.S. Army Signal Corps School of Television. Tom had a notable television engineering career in Hollywood. His life-long passion was hot rods, actively building street rods, some were featured in Hotrod magazines. Tom is survived, loved, and missed by wife Lauren, son Geoff, sisters, and many friends. Tom's celebration was held privately, RIP.

THE MORTUARY AT GREEN HILLS

LAM, Betty Haruko

89 year-old, Maui, Hawaii-born Nisei, passed away on December 17, 2022 in Torrance. She was predeceased by her husband, John Ho-Sun Lam and son, Derrick Lam, and is survived by her son, Darin (Julie) Lam; daughter-in-law, Tressa Lam; four grandchildren; and one great-grandson. She is also survived by many nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

There will be no services held at this time.

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Los Angeles Times

SUTO, MIYEKO FLORENCE

SUTO, MIYEKO "FLORENCE". Age 99 passed away on January 15, 2023 after a long and vibrant life. Predeceased by her beloved husband, Henry Eiichi Suto and sister, Lily Tagawa; she is survived by her daughters, Eileen (Willy) Ma and Nadine (Robert) Suto-Ford; grandchildren, Jordan Chikara and Kassidy Mieko Ford; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Per her request, no service will be held.

www.fukuimortuary.com
213-626-0441

YUBA, Anthony Toneo

September 11, 1940 - December 22, 2022

Anthony Toneo Yuba, 82, of Altadena, CA peacefully passed away December 22 at home. Born September 11, 1940 in Los Angeles, CA to George and Mary Yuba. He is survived by his wife Yoshiko and their three children, Timothy (Reena), Karianne (Scott) Johnson, and Todd (Kimberly). He is also survived by grandchildren, Sarah, Prescott, Olivia, Evan and Quinn and sister, Kathy (Bruce) Fujikawa and brother, Greg (Cecelia).

Memorial service on Friday, Jan. 27, 11:00 a.m. at Rose Hills Memorial Park, Gate 17, at Hillside Chapel.

ZEILBERGER, Ernest J.

Mount Sinai Memorial Parks
Hollywood Hills 800-600-0076
www.mountsinaiparks.org

In Memoriam

Rita Cooper

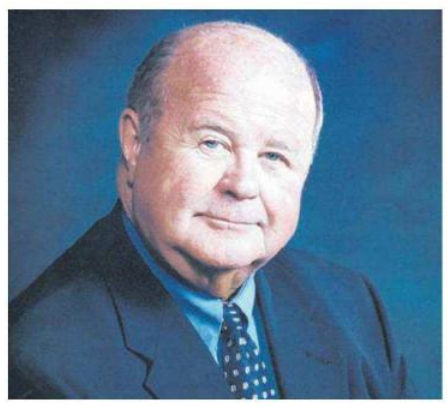
Mama, it's been 12 years since you left me but it seems like a lifetime. I miss your smile and our laughter together. I am trying everyday to carry your torch, and do good in the world. Please take care of Papa for me.

I love you always,
Linda

Share a memory

To sign a guest book please go to latimes.com/guestbooks

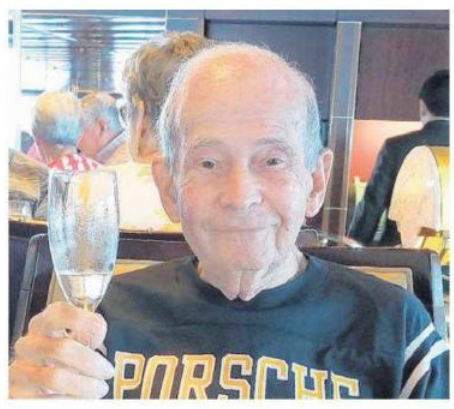
Los Angeles Times



Ralph Joseph Martin Jr.

November 4, 1934 - November 21, 2022

Ralph Joseph Martin Jr. was born on November 4, 1934 in Iowa City, Iowa and passed away on November 21, 2022 in Torrance, CA. During Ralph's early years, the family lived in Cedar Rapids, Iowa where Ralph attended St. Mathew's Elementary School. When old enough, he was the altar boy for the daily Mass at six a.m. He delivered newspapers, mowed lawns or shoveled snow after school. The family moved to a farm near Central City, Iowa and Ralph attended and graduated from Central City High School. He excelled in vocal and instrumental music as well as academics and art. Ralph graduated from Iowa State University with a degree in city and urban planning. In 1957, Ralph married Phyllis French in Coggon Iowa and immediately began his service in the U.S. Army in Korea. After his discharge, Ralph and Phyllis moved to Riverside, CA, where he took a position with the City Planning Department. Ralph later joined Victor Gruen Associates in Los Angeles, and in 1971, became a partner, and later President of Richardson, Nagy, Martin Architects and Planners in Newport Beach, CA. In semi-retirement, Ralph designed, and with his partner, built Torrance Flite Park at Torrance Municipal Airport. During his lifetime, Ralph had a passion for flying. He was selected for the Wright Brothers Pilot Award by the FAA. Ralph had three (deceased) siblings and is survived by his sister, Theresa, of Marion, Iowa, nieces and nephews and his wife, Phyllis. In lieu of flowers, donations are subjected to: Western Museum of Flight 3315 Airport Dr. Torrance, CA 90505-6512



Bart Roe

April 2, 1932 - January 14, 2023

Born in New York City on April 2, 1932 to Michael and Edith, passed away peacefully at the stroke of 6 pm, on January 14, 2023 at the age of 90. Bart was a fun, funny, and fun-loving man, an irrepressible kidder who never met a straight line he couldn't answer with a quip.

His long career in the entertainment industry began as a child actor on radio and in the Broadway hit A Young Man's Fancy. After the rude interruption of the Korean War, in which he fought with the Second United States Infantry Division, he worked as both an assistant and unit director on such Golden Age of Television classics as The Ernie Kovaks Show and Young Dr. Kildare. He spent many years working as a second assistant director on General Hospital, before moving on to big screen films and working with scores of talented actors, including Jane Fonda and Robert Redford. In later years, he left the film industry for a career in real estate.

Bart was an amazing and intuitive photographer. He savored travel and loved skiing, watching movies at the Director's Guild, listening to Frank Sinatra and Barbara Cook, and making and devouring his own ice cream. He is survived by his loving sister Lois, nephew Brian, and nieces Alison and Wendy, to whom he always gave his time and affection over the years. We will miss him and keep him forever in our hearts and in our lives.

Services will be held on Friday, January 20th at 1:30 pm at Hollywood Forever Cemetery at 6000 Santa Monica Blvd.
Hollywood, CA 90038 (323) 469-1181.

THE WEATHER

Today in Southern California

Cool and sunny: High pressure building to the north will deliver a dry but cool offshore flow with sunshine today. With strong high pressure aloft building in the eastern Pacific, there will be no rain-making storms headed into Southern California for at least the next week. Low-end Santa Ana winds could develop tonight and Saturday, with the potential for stronger winds early next week.

5-day forecasts

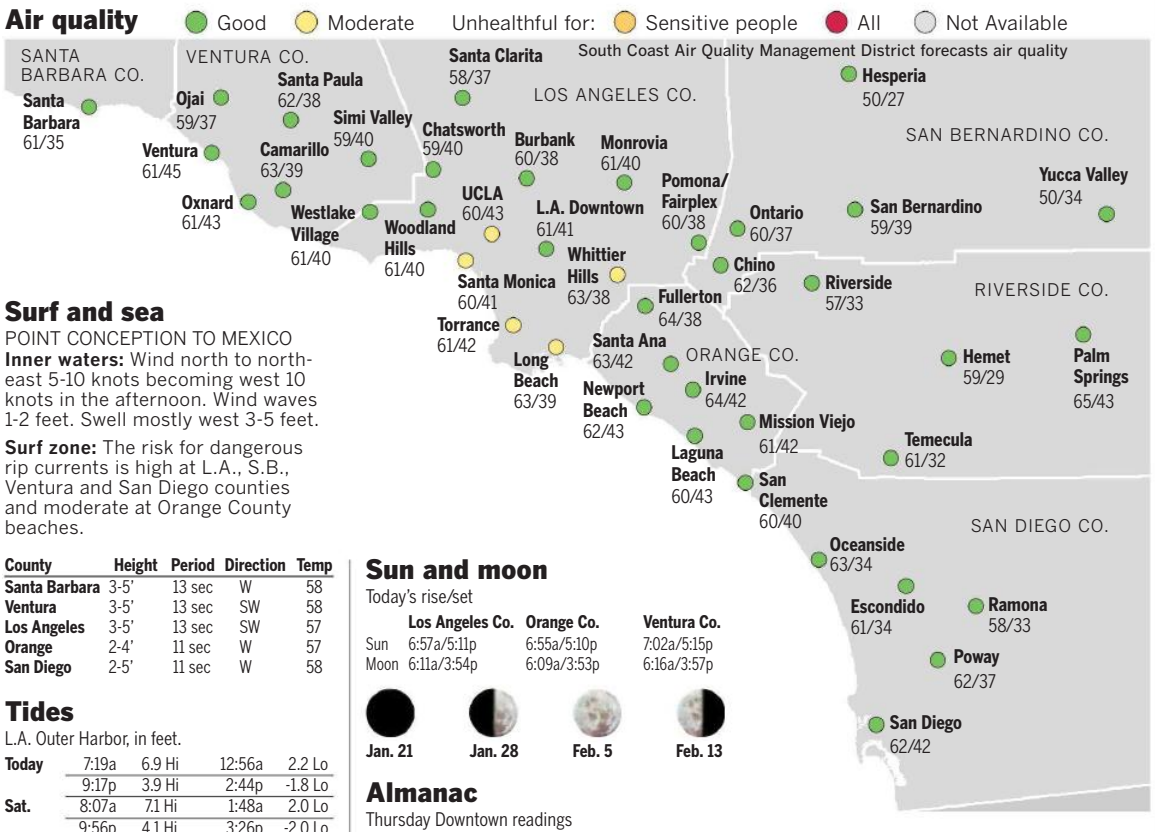
High/low temperatures are average forecasts for entire zone.

	L.A. Basin		Valleys		Beaches		Mountains		Deserts	
Today	61|41		59|41		60|41		34|14		65|43	
	Mostly sunny; cool		Mostly sunny; cool		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny; cold		Lots of sun	
Saturday	Sunny	65/45	Lots of sun	62/43	Sunny	65/40	Lots of sun	38/15	Sunny	68/43
Sunday	Mostly sunny	62/42	Mostly sunny	60/43	Mostly sunny	59/41	Mostly sunny	43/13	Mostly sunny	64/46
Monday	Lots of sun	63/42	Windy	63/42	Lots of sun	57/39	Mostly sunny	31/12	Partly sunny	66/43
Tuesday	Lots of sun	65/45	Sunny	65/44	Sunny	61/43	Not as cold	42/17	Sunny	68/45

Air quality

Good · Moderate · Unhealthful for: Sensitive people · All · Not Available

South Coast Air Quality Management District forecasts air quality



Surf and sea

POINT CONCEPTION TO MEXICO

Inner waters: Wind north to northeast 5-10 knots becoming west 10 knots in the afternoon. Wind waves 1-2 feet. Swell mostly west 3-5 feet.

Surf zone: The risk for dangerous rip currents is high at L.A., S.B., Ventura and San Diego counties and moderate at Orange County beaches.

County	Height	Period	Direction	Temp
Santa Barbara	3-5'	13 sec	W	58
Ventura	3-5'	13 sec	SW	58
Los Angeles	3-5'	13 sec	SW	57
Orange	2-4'	11 sec	W	57
San Diego	2-5'	11 sec	W	58

Tides

L.A. Outer Harbor, in feet.

Today	7:19a	6.9 Hi	12:56a	2.2 Lo
	9:17p	3.9 Hi	2:44p	-1.8 Lo
Sat.	8:07a	7.1 Hi	1:48a	2.0 Lo
	9:56p	4.1 Hi	3:26p	-2.0 Lo

UV index

Minutes to burn for sensitive people

Las Vegas, 45 · Phoenix, 60
Los Angeles, 45 · San Francisco, 45

Sun and moon

Today's rise/set

	Los Angeles Co.	Orange Co.	Ventura Co.
Sun	6:57a/5:11p	6:55a/5:10p	7:02a/5:15p
Moon	6:11a/3:54p	6:09a/3:53p	6:16a/3:57p

Jan. 21 · Jan. 28 · Feb. 5 · Feb. 13

Almanac

Thursday Downtown readings

Temperature	Los Angeles	Fullerton	Ventura
High/low	59/43	61/41	57/45
Normal high/low	68/49	69/47	66/44
High/low a year ago	64/52	66/50	60/49
Record high/date	92/1971	84/2005	88/1971
Record low/date	32/1889	39/2007	36/2007

Precipitation	Los Angeles	Fullerton	Ventura
24-hour total (as of 5 p.m.)	0.00	Trace	0.00
Season total (since Oct. 1)	13.01	10.78	13.33
Last season (Oct. 1 to date)	10.36	5.47	9.54
Season norm (Oct. 1 to date)	5.99	4.88	6.67
Humidity (high/low)	85/49	92/57	88/63

California cities

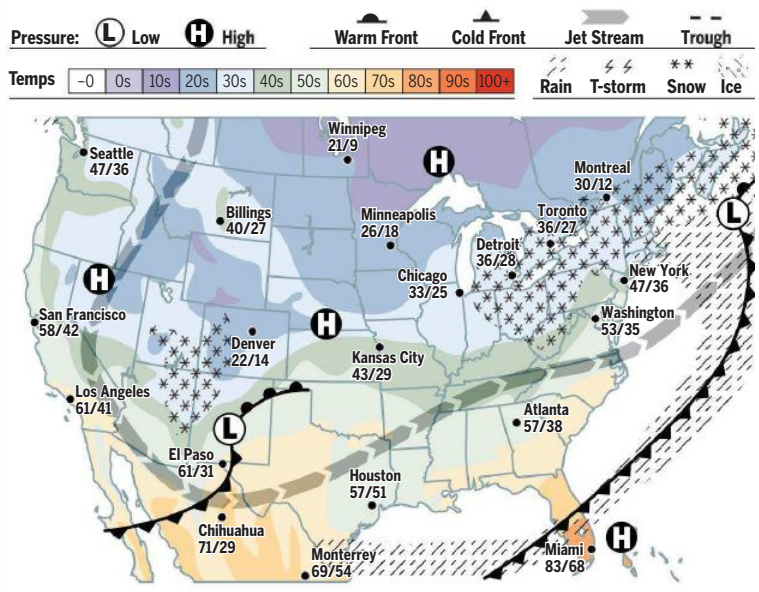
City	Thursday Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Saturday Hi	Lo
Anaheim	64	44	--	63	40	66	40
Avalon/Catalina	xx	xx	xx	54	47	59	47
Bakersfield	49	37	Tr	55	34	53	34
Barstow	59	30	--	53	30	56	32
Big Bear Lake	xx	xx	xx	34	14	38	15
Bishop	43	22	--	43	23	51	29
Burbank	57	38	Tr	60	38	65	41
Camarillo	59	35	--	63	39	66	37
Chatsworth	57	37	.01	59	40	61	40
Chino	59	35	.01	62	36	66	35
Compton	59	40	.04	63	39	65	41
Dana Point	58	39	--	60	42	62	45
Death Valley	62	41	--	61	42	61	42
Del Mar	59	44	--	61	41	64	44
Escondido	61	38	--	61	34	64	34
Eureka	51	35	.04	54	37	56	42
Fallbrook	58	42	--	61	36	65	33
Fresno	47	45	.05	54	34	54	36
Fullerton	61	41	Tr	64	38	68	40
Hemet	57	33	--	59	29	63	31
Hesperia	xx	xx	xx	50	27	52	32
Huntington Beach	62	39	--	61	40	63	43
Idyllwild	xx	xx	xx	43	26	47	28
Irvine	58	41	--	64	42	65	43

City	Thursday Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Saturday Hi	Lo
L.A. D'ntown/USC	59	43	--	61	41	65	45
L.A. Int'l. Airport	57	43	Tr	60	44	63	45
Laguna Beach	61	39	--	60	43	62	46
Lancaster	53	30	.01	51	23	55	27
Long Beach	60	44	.01	63	39	67	41
Mammoth Lakes	32	14	.01	24	8	34	19
Mission Viejo	59	38	.03	61	42	66	43
Monrovia	58	32	--	61	40	66	44
Monterey	54	44	.17	55	37	59	40
Mt. Wilson	40	32	--	36	30	46	37
Needles	60	35	--	58	38	58	37
Newport Beach	xx	xx	xx	62	43	62	44
Northridge	59	35	--	61	40	64	41
Oakland	53	41	.11	58	35	59	39
Oceanside	58	37	--	63	34	67	35
Ojai	58	32	.04	59	37	62	38
Ontario	57	38	--	60	37	65	38
Palm Springs	63	42	--	65	43	68	43
Pasadena	62	42	--	59	39	64	44
Paso Robles	53	36	.05	55	28	58	30
Redding	53	32	.56	58	30	57	34
Riverside	56	31	--	57	33	64	32
Sacramento	53	39	.37	55	31	55	32
San Bernardino	57	34	--	59	39	63	38

City	Thursday Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Saturday Hi	Lo
San Diego	60	41	--	62	42	64	43
San Francisco	55	47	.24	58	42	59	44
San Gabriel	xx	xx	xx	62	40	66	44
San Jose	54	43	.04	56	34	57	38
San Luis Obispo	58	41	.06	60	33	64	38
Santa Ana	60	44	.01	63	42	64	46
Santa Barbara	63	39	--	61	35	63	36
Santa Clarita	55	35	--	58	37	62	39
Santa Monica Pier	57	42	--	60	41	65	40
Santa Paula	57	37	--	62	38	64	37
Santa Rosa	55	32	.32	62	33	56	34
Simi Valley	56	36	.01	59	40	65	37
Tahoe Valley	32	22	.47	31	9	40	19
Temecula	58	35	--	61	32	65	33
Thousand Oaks	55	41	--	61	40	65	35
Torrance	63	39	--	61	42	64	44
UCLA	xx	xx	xx	60	43	63	41
Van Nuys	59	39	Tr	62	40	65	43
Ventura	57	45	--	61	45	65	41
Whittier Hills	62	42	--	63	38	68	38
Woodland Hills	59	33	--	61	40	63	40
Wrightwood	40	27	--	38	30	46	38
Yorba Linda	61	41	--	62	41	67	40
Yosemite Valley	42	32	.24	37	26	46	33

Today in North America

Snow from New England to the Great Lakes: Flurries will trail a storm from New England to Michigan and Ohio. Cooler air will move into northern Florida behind a shower-bearing front. The Four Corners region will have snow. High pressure will keep the Northwest dry.



U.S. cities

THURSDAY'S EXTREMES FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES

High 88 in Immokalee, Fla. **Low** –23 in Crested Butte, Colo.

City	Thursday Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Sky
Albany	35	29	.45	38	26	Sn
Albuquerque	41	21	--	40	23	Sn
Anchorage	26	16	.01	31	25	Sn
Aspen	26	1	Tr	25	5	Sn
Atlanta	72	61	.04	57	38	Pc
Austin	67	37	--	57	44	Cy
Baltimore	44	41	.14	52	34	Pc
Boise	36	30	.30	35	19	Pc
Boston	40	37	.20	39	29	Sn
Buffalo	45	35	.30	37	30	Sn
Burlington, Vt.	35	28	.07	35	19	Sn
Charleston, S.C.	77	55	--	68	45	Su
Charlotte	69	53	Tr	59	34	Su
Chicago	42	37	.36	33	25	Cy
Cincinnati	62	42	.50	34	27	Pc
Cleveland	58	38	1.03	37	30	Sf
Columbia, S.C.	74	55	Tr	64	39	Su
Columbus	60	39	.62	35	29	W
Dallas/Ft.Worth	61	44	--	59	43	Pc
Denver	32	13	Tr	22	14	Cy
Detroit	48	36	.87	36	28	Sf
El Paso	51	28	--	61	31	Pc
Eugene	47	35	Tr	45	30	Fg
Fort Myers	83	60	--	80	66	Cy
Hartford	40	31	.51	39	32	Cy
Honolulu	83	70	--	81	68	Sh
Houston	72	47	--	57	51	Cy
Indianapolis	56	40	.61	34	27	Pc
Jacksonville, Fla.	84	51	--	73	45	Pc
Kansas City	37	35	.05	43	29	Pc
Knoxville	67	50	.15	48	29	Pc
Las Vegas	50	33	Tr	51	34	Su
Louisville	64	49	.57	40	30	Pc
Medford	45	35	Tr	50	28	Fg
Memphis	57	51	.42	49	34	Pc
Miami	84	63	--	83	68	Cy
Milwaukee	42	37	.37	33	23	Cy
Minneapolis	32	28	.40	26	18	Cy
Nashville	68	53	.72	48	30	Pc
New Orleans	75	57	.44	60	52	Pc
New York	43	42	.59	47	36	W
Norfolk	70	44	--	57	38	Su
Oklahoma City	51	32	--	56	37	Pc
Omaha	30	28	.12	29	19	Pc
Orlando	82	55	--	77	57	Pc
Philadelphia	45	37	.69	50	35	W
Phoenix	61	42	--	58	37	Pc
Pittsburgh	58	36	.67	36	30	Sf
Portland, Ore.	45	39	--	48	32	Pc
Providence	42	32	.36	38	30	Cy
Raleigh/Durham	73	52	Tr	59	34	Su
Reno	33	28	.04	33	18	Su
Richmond	66	44	.03	55	32	Su
St. Louis	44	40	.02	41	27	Su
Salt Lake City	33	28	.01	35	20	Sf

City	Thursday Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Sky
Seattle	42	36	.07	47	36	Cy
Tampa	78	58	Tr	74	59	Pc
Tucson	61	33	--	55	30	Pc
Tulsa	49	32	--	53	34	Su
Washington, D.C.	47	42	.05	53	35	Pc
Wichita	44	28	--	49	33	Pc

World

City	Thursday Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Sky
Acapulco	83	66	--	84	67	Su
Amsterdam	44	37	.47	40	27	Sn
Athens	66	59	--	60	55	Sh
Bangkok	88	70	--	89	71	Pc
Barcelona	54	41	--	58	35	Pc
Berlin	33	23	--	37	26	Cy
Cabo San Lucas	72	52	--	76	50	Su
Cairo	72	51	--	72	51	Su
Dubai	75	69	--	77	60	Su
Dublin	39	30	--	43	36	Cy
Havana	84	57	--	86	60	Pc
Ho Chi Minh City	91	75	Tr	91	75	Sh
Hong Kong	66	54	--	67	58	Su
Istanbul	64	55	--	62	49	Sh
Jerusalem	63	44	--	63	40	Su
Johannesburg	83	63	--	85	60	Pc
Kuala Lumpur	90	74	.30	90	73	Sh
Lima	76	68	--	76	68	Pc
London	41	28	--	44	30	Pc
Madrid	48	32	.02	54	34	Pc
Mecca	90	61	--	85	66	Su
Mexico City	78	45	--	79	45	Pc
Montreal	32	25	--	30	12	Sn
Moscow	36	32	.34	39	30	R
Mumbai	84	69	--	86	66	Hz
New Delhi	68	47	--	69	48	Hz
Paris	38	32	.13	42	34	Pc
Prague	31	26	--	33	27	Cy
Rome	53	39	.02	48	40	Pc
Seoul	41	19	.08	34	8	Su
Singapore	86	77	.28	87	77	R
Taipei City	66	57	--	63	59	R
Tokyo	46	43	.31	52	39	Su
Vancouver	45	32	.03	46	40	Cy
Vienna	38	34	--	38	31	Cy

Key: **Su** sunny; **Pc** partly cloudy; **Cy** cloudy; **Fg** foggy; **Prcp** precipitation; **Dr** drizzle; **Hz** hazy **Sh** showers; **Ts** thunderstorms; **R** rain; **Sn** snow; **Sf** snow flurries; **I** ice; **Rs** rain/snow; **W** windy; **Tr** trace. **Notes:** National extremes exclude Alaska and Hawaii. Missing data indicated by "xx". Thursday's readings as of 5 p.m.

Forecasts by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2023
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NBA STANDINGS

Standings have been arranged to reflect how the teams will be determined for the playoffs. Teams are ranked 1-15 by record. The top six teams in each conference qualify for the playoffs. Teams seven through 10 will participate in a play-in tournament with the top-seeded play-in team meeting the lowest qualifying play-in team. The next-lowest qualifying team would play the second, etc. Head-to-head competition is the first of several tiebreakers, followed by conference record. (Western Conference divisions: S-Southwest; P-Pacific; N-Northwest; Eastern Conference divisions: A-Atlantic; C-Central; S-Southeast).

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	Rk.
1. Denver	32	13	.711		9-1	N1
2. Memphis	31	13	.705	½	10-0	S1
3. Sacramento	25	18	.581	6	7-3	P1
4. New Orleans	26	19	.578	6	3-7	S2
5. Dallas	24	22	.522	8½	4-6	S3
6. Utah	24	24	.500	9½	5-5	N2
7. CLIPPERS	23	24	.489	10	2-8	P3
7. Golden State	22	23	.489	10	5-5	P2
7. Oklahoma City	22	23	.489	10	7-3	N4
7. Minnesota	23	24	.489	10	7-3	N3
11. Phoenix	22	24	.478	10½	2-8	P4
11. Portland	21	24	.467	11	3-7	N5
13. LAKERS	20	25	.444	12	6-4	P5
14. San Antonio	14	31	.311	18	2-8	S4
15. Houston	10	35	.222	22	0-10	S5

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	Rk.
1. Boston	34	12	.739		8-2	A1
2. Milwaukee	29	16	.644	4½	6-4	C1
2. Philadelphia	29	16	.644	4½	8-2	A2
4. Brooklyn	27	17	.614	6	5-5	A3
5. Cleveland	28	18	.609	6	6-4	C2
6. Miami	25	21	.543	9	7-3	S1
6. New York	25	21	.543	9	7-3	A4
8. Atlanta	23	22	.511	10½	6-4	S2
9. Indiana	23	23	.500	11	4-6	C3
10. Chicago	21	24	.467	12½	5-5	C4
11. Toronto	20	26	.435	14	4-6	A5
12. Washington	19	26	.422	14½	5-5	S3
13. Orlando	16	28	.364	17	3-7	S4
14. Charlotte	12	34	.261	22	2-8	S5
15. Detroit	12	36	.250	23	3-7	C5

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

Chicago 126, Detroit 108	Boston 121, Golden State 118 (OT)
Minnesota 128, Toronto 126	Philadelphia 105, Portland 95
Phoenix 117, Brooklyn 112	

TODAY'S GAMES

Favorite	Line	Underdog	Time
CLIPPERS	6½	at San Antoino	5 p.m.
Memphis	6½	at LAKERS	7 p.m.
New Orleans	2½	at Orlando	4 p.m.
at Cleveland	OFF	Golden State	4:30 p.m.
at Dallas	PK	Miami	4:30 p.m.
at Atlanta	3	New York	4:30 p.m.
at Utah	OFF	Brooklyn	6 p.m.
at Denver	11	Indiana	6 p.m.
at Sacramento	OFF	Oklahoma City	7 p.m.

SCORING LEADERS

Through Wednesday's games

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Doncic, Dallas	41	463	340	1381	33.7
Embiid, Philadelphia	33	370	333	1110	33.6
Tatum, Boston	43	438	319	1337	31.1
Antetokounmpo, Milwaukee	35	382	296	1085	31.0
Gilgeous-Alexander, Okla. City	41	412	385	1249	30.5
James, LAKERS	35	404	165	1042	29.8
Durant, Brooklyn	39	410	267	1158	29.7
Lillard, Portland	32	287	237	938	29.3
Mitchell, Cleveland	40	390	206	1135	28.4
Morant, Memphis	37	360	231	1013	27.4

Bulls 126, Pistons 108

CHICAGO

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
DeRozan	37	9-18	8-8	0-9	5	1	26
Williams	30	4-6	0-0	1-6	2	0	10
Vucevic	35	8-19	0-0	4-15	6	4	16
Dosunmu	25	6-8	0-0	1-3	1	3	13
LaVine	35	10-20	8-9	1-5	4	1	30
Caruso	22	1-4	0-0	1-3	3	2	2
White	17	4-5	0-0	1-1	0	1	10
Jones Jr.	16	5-6	2-3	1-2	0	4	12
Dragic	13	1-3	1-1	0-2	2	1	3
Bradley	1	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Hill	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Jones	1	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	2
Simonovic	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Terry	1	1-1	0-0	1-2	0	0	2
Totals		**50-92**	**19-21**	**11-48**	**23**	**17**	**126**

Shooting: Field goals, 54.3%; free throws, 90.5%

Three-point goals: 7-23 (White 2-2, Williams 2-3, LaVine 2-6, Dosunmu 1-3, Caruso 0-1, DeRozan 0-1, Dragic 0-1, Jones Jr. 0-1, Vucevic 0-5). Team Rebounds: None. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 8 (Caruso 3, Jones Jr. 2, Williams 2, DeRozan). Turnovers: 14 (DeRozan 5, Dosunmu 3, LaVine 2, Vucevic 2, Jones Jr., Williams). Steals: 11 (Caruso 4, DeRozan 2, Williams 2, LaVine, Vucevic, White). Technical Fouls: None.

DETROIT

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Bey	28	6-17	2-2	3-9	1	0	16
Bogdanovic	34	9-19	4-6	2-5	3	0	25
Stewart	29	1-10	5-6	6-11	2	2	7
Hayes	31	2-13	0-0	0-1	8	4	4
Ivey	33	7-14	1-1	0-3	4	2	16
Livers	22	2-4	0-0	1-2	2	4	6
Diallo	21	7-8	3-4	0-3	1	1	17
Burks	20	1-8	4-4	2-3	3	0	6
Duren	18	4-4	3-4	3-12	1	2	11
Totals		**39-97**	**22-27**	**17-49**	**25**	**15**	**108**

Shooting: Field goals, 40.2%; free throws, 81.5%

Three-point goals: 8-34 (Bogdanovic 3-9, Livers 2-2, Bey 2-5, Ivey 1-5, Burks 0-3, Stewart 0-4, Hayes 0-6). Team Rebounds: 10. Team Turnovers: 2. Blocked Shots: 3 (Duren 2, Bey). Turnovers: 15 (Hayes 4, Ivey 4, Bogdanovic 2, Diallo 2, Duren 2, Bey). Steals: 7 (Bey 3, Hayes 2, Diallo, Duren). Technical Fouls: None.

Chicago	31	34	28	33–126
Detroit	24	32	23	29–108

A–15,885. T–2:14.

Celtics 121, Warriors 118, OT

GOLDEN STATE

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Thompson	36	8-16	4-4	0-2	1	6	24
Wiggins	39	6-18	5-8	2-4	3	3	20
D.Green	37	3-5	4-4	2-13	9	4	11
Curry	43	9-25	5-5	0-4	7	1	29
Poole	43	10-25	2-2	0-6	4	4	24
DiVincenzo	27	2-6	0-0	0-3	0	2	6
Looney	20	1-1	0-0	3-12	3	3	2
Lamb	17	1-4	0-0	1-3	1	3	2
Totals		**40-100**	**20-23**	**8-47**	**28**	**26**	**118**

Shooting: Field goals, 40.0%; free throws, 87.0%

Three-point goals: 18-52 (Curry 6-18, Thompson 4-8, Wiggins 3-8, DiVincenzo 2-4, Poole 2-10, D.Green 1-2, Lamb 0-2). Team Rebounds: 10. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 7 (Wiggins 4, Curry 2, Thompson). Turnovers: 16 (Curry 3, Thompson 3, D.Green 2, Lamb 2, Looney 2, Poole 2, Wiggins 2). Steals: 10 (Curry 3, Poole 3, Thompson 2, D.Green, Wiggins). Technical Fouls: None.

BOSTON

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Horford	37	8-13	2-2	3-10	0	3	20
Tatum	48	9-27	12-12	2-19	6	2	34
Williams III	27	6-8	2-3	7-11	2	1	14
Brown	41	6-18	3-6	1-9	3	5	16
Smart	37	7-16	1-2	1-5	4	3	18
Brogdon	35	5-15	1-3	2-7	2	2	14
White	17	0-6	1-2	0-0	3	3	1
Williams	12	1-4	0-0	2-2	0	0	2
Kornet	7	1-1	0-0	0-0	1	0	2
Totals		**43-108**	**22-30**	**18-63**	**21**	**19**	**121**

Shooting: Field goals, 39.8%; free throws, 73.3%

Three-point goals: 13-41 (Tatum 4-13, Smart 3-6, Brogdon 3-8, Horford 2-5, Brown 1-4, Williams 0-2, White 0-3). Team Rebounds: 16. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 5 (Horford 3, Brogdon, Smart). Turnovers: 17 (Tatum 7, Smart 4, Brown 2, Williams III 2, Brogdon, Williams). Steals: 10 (Smart 3, Tatum 3, Brogdon, Brown, White, Williams). Technical Fouls: None.

Golden State	26	29	34	17	12–118
Boston	25	29	28	24	15–121

A–19,156. T–2:39.

Timberwolves 128, Raptors 126

TORONTO

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Anunoby	35	5-11	2-2	1-8	0	3	15
Barnes	38	11-15	6-7	2-8	5	4	29
Siakam	40	6-16	1-2	1-7	9	2	13
Trent Jr.	36	6-15	4-5	0-2	0	2	18
VanVleet	36	7-13	7-7	0-1	10	3	25
Achiuwa	20	5-8	0-4	3-4	1	2	11
Hrnangmz	12	1-3	0-0	0-4	0	1	2
Wieskamp	11	3-4	0-0	0-0	1	0	9
Young	7	2-2	0-0	1-4	0	2	4
Totals		**46-87**	**20-27**	**8-38**	**26**	**19**	**126**

Shooting: Field goals, 52.9%; free throws, 74.1%

Three-point goals: 14-28 (VanVleet 4-6, Wieskamp 3-3, Anunoby 3-7, Trent Jr. 2-8, Achiuwa 1-1, Barnes 1-1, Hernangomez 0-2). Team Rebounds: 10. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 6 (Achiuwa 2, Anunoby, Siakam, Trent Jr., VanVleet). Turnovers: 16 (Siakam 4, Anunoby 3, Barnes 2, Trent Jr. 2, VanVleet 2, Hernangomez, Wieskamp, Young). Steals: 8 (Barnes 2, Trent Jr. 2, VanVleet 2, Anunoby, Hernangomez). Technical Fouls: None.

MINNESOTA

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Anderson	33	8-9	2-3	2-10	6	1	20
McDaniels	37	7-14	0-0	3-7	1	4	18
Reid	22	2-6	0-0	0-7	2	3	5
Edwards	39	5-16	11-12	0-5	7	3	23
Russell	33	8-15	4-4

BASKETBALL

PAC-12 STANDINGS

	Conf.		Overall	
TEAM	W	L	W	L
UCLA	8	0	17	2
Arizona State	6	2	15	4
Utah	6	3	13	7
Arizona	5	3	16	3
USC	5	3	13	6
Oregon	5	3	11	8
Washington	4	5	12	8
Washington State	4	5	9	11
Colorado	3	6	11	9
California	2	6	3	16
Oregon State	1	7	7	12
Stanford	1	7	6	12

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

No. 11 Arizona 81, USC 66
No. 5 UCLA 74, Arizona State 62
Utah 77, Washington State 63
Washington 75, Colorado 72
Stanford 67, Oregon State 46

SATURDAY'S GAMES

No. 5 UCLA at No. 11 Arizona, 11 a.m.
USC at Arizona State, 7 p.m.
Washington at Utah, 5 p.m.
Oregon at Stanford, 8 p.m.

SUNDAY'S GAMES

Oregon State at California, noon
Washington State at Colorado, 3 p.m.

Arizona has way with USC

New Wildcats lineup shakes up offense against disjointed and struggling Trojans.

No. 11 ARIZONA 81 USC 66

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TUCSON, Ariz. — Frustrated with another offensive letdown, Arizona coach Tommy Lloyd decided he was going to shake up the starting lineup.

Before pulling the trigger, Lloyd wanted to run it by his team.

They were all for it and it couldn't have worked out much better.

Courtney Ramey scored 16 points, Azuolas Tubelis had 15 points and 17 rebounds, and No. 11 Arizona used a revamped lineup to beat USC 81-66 on Thursday night.

"Starting doesn't mean a lot to me," Lloyd said. "It's about putting lineups out there, finishing games and finding combinations."

Lloyd's decision to change up his starting lineup came shortly after last week's 19-point loss to Oregon. Arizona's offense needed a spark and so did its bench, so Lloyd moved Cedric Henderson Jr. to the starting lineup in place of Pelle Larsson.

The Wildcats (16-3, 5-3 Pac-12) had a much better offensive flow at the start, racing to a 15-point halftime lead. Arizona bogged down a bit in the second half, but shot 48% from the floor and 12 for 24 from three after failing to eclipse 38% in four of its last five games.

Larsson had 15 of Arizona's 21 bench points. Henderson finished with 11 points and seven rebounds.

"If he comes to us with an idea, we have to be grown men and accept it and understand what's best for the team," said Ramey, who went five of 10 from three.

RICK SCUTERI Associated Press

USC'S Drew Peterson is fouled by Arizona guard Kylan Boswell.

USC (13-6, 5-3) had been getting better offensively as the season has worn on but took a step back against Arizona. The Trojans couldn't get open looks to fall during a shaky start and struggled against Arizona's pressure the rest of the night, shooting 37% and four of 17 from the three-point arc.

Drew Peterson led the Trojans with 15 points but had just four after halftime before fouling out. Boogie Ellis had 11 points on two-of-11 shooting with four turnovers.

"We need our best players to play well, especially on the road against Arizona, if you're going to have a chance to win," USC coach Andy Enfield said.

USC played one of its best all-around games in a 71-56 win over Utah on Saturday.

Against Arizona, Enfield used 11 players in the first half, trying to find a combination that worked.

USC had trouble stopping Tubelis and Oumar Ballo in the post early while struggling with Arizona's offensive movement through most of the first half.

The Trojans were disjointed offensively from the opening tip, struggling with turnovers and getting shots to fall. USC shot 11 of 34 and had nine first-half turnovers.

NO. 11 ARIZONA 81, USC 66

USC

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Morgan	26	2-3	3-8	2-3	1	2	7
Ellis	33	2-11	6-7	0-4	2	1	11
Johnson	25	2-5	1-2	2-4	1	1	6
Peterson	28	5-14	4-4	1-6	2	5	15
White	22	3-9	0-0	1-6	0	4	7
Dixon-Waters	24	4-10	0-0	1-4	0	3	8
Iwuchukwu	15	2-7	0-0	1-1	0	2	4
Thomas	11	2-4	0-0	1-2	1	2	4
Hornery	9	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Wright	5	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	2	2
Niagu	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	0
Sellers	1	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	2
Totals		**24-65**	**14-21**	**9-30**	**7**	**23**	**66**

Shooting: Field goals, 36.9%; free throws, 66.7%
Three-point goals: 4-18 (Johnson 1-1, Ellis 1-4, White 1-4, Peterson 1-5, Iwuchukwu 0-1, Dixon-Waters 0-3). Team Rebounds: 7. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 3 (Morgan 2, Iwuchukwu). Turnovers: 12 (Ellis 4, Johnson 2, Peterson 2, Dixon-Waters, Morgan, White, Wright). Steals: 12 (Ellis 3, Johnson 3, Peterson 2, Hornery, Iwuchukwu). Technical Fouls: None.

ARIZONA

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
A.Tubelis	33	6-12	3-5	3-15	1	2	15
Ballo	27	5-10	2-4	4-8	1	3	12
Kriisa	29	2-7	1-2	0-3	7	4	6
Ramey	32	5-10	1-2	1-1	2	1	16
Henderson	21	4-6	1-3	2-6	1	3	11
Larsson	30	4-7	5-5	1-3	3	3	15
Boswell	18	1-4	0-0	0-2	1	2	3
Bal	3	0-0	0-0	0-1	1	0	0
Veesaar	3	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	0
Ackerley	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Lang	1	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	3
Mains	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
T.Tubelis	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Weitman	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Totals		**28-57**	**13-21**	**11-39**	**17**	**19**	**81**

Shooting: Field goals, 49.1%; free throws, 61.9%
Three-point goals: 12-24 (Ramey 5-9, Henderson 2-2, Larsson 2-3, Lang 1-1, Boswell 1-2, Kriisa 1-6, A.Tubelis 0-1). Team Rebounds: 4. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 1 (Ballo). Turnovers: 17 (Larsson 4, Ballo 3, Kriisa 3, Ramey 3, A.Tubelis 2, Henderson, Veesaar). Steals: 7 (Larsson 3, Ramey 2, Ballo, Henderson). Technical Fouls: Ballo, 18:48 second.

USC	**26**	**40—**	**66**
Arizona	**41**	**40—**	**81**

A—14,688 (14,644).

Bruins finish strong, extend win streak to 14

[**UCLA,** from B10]
advantage as part of a game-ending 16-2 run.

"I knew my shot was going to fall when it needed to fall," said Jaquez, who could smile after making only four of 12 shots for nine points. "I'm not really worried about that."

The Bruins (17-2 overall, 8-0 Pac-12) needed the supplementary offense with Tyger Campbell and David Singleton carrying such a heavy load. Campbell led his team with 22 points and Singleton had 21 while making four of six three-pointers.

The top scorers also led the celebration of their team's 14th consecutive victory, Campbell rapping his forehead with clenched fists and Singleton cupping his hand to an ear while looking at a record student section of 5,213 that had grown silent.

"It's been fun flying under the radar the last couple of months," UCLA coach Mick Cronin said while addressing only two reporters after a game that was called by remote FS1 broadcasters. "Because of what happened in [Las] Vegas, I think people gave up on us."

Cronin was alluding to his team's two losses, which came in a span of three days in late November. Illinois and Baylor prevailed over the Bruins largely because of success making three-pointers, a formula that Arizona State (15-4, 6-2) tried to duplicate.

The Sun Devils made nine of 22 shots from beyond the arc, including one from Frankie Collins that pushed them into a 60-58 lead before UCLA commenced its final surge. Arizona State's late-game execution faltered against a defense that tightened considerably.

Sun Devils guard DJ Horne went scoreless in the second half after blistering the Bruins for 14 points by halftime.

"We're one of the best defensive teams in the country," Cronin said after Arizona State closed the game by making only one of its last eight shots, "and we've proven it over this winning streak."

Somehow, shorthanded once again with Amari Bailey sitting out a sixth consecutive game because of discomfort in his left foot, the Bruins kept finding the energy to come back.

Trailing by as many as six points, the Bruins moved into a 58-57 lead with 6:34 left when freshman center Adem Bona made one of two free throws after a Singleton corner three-pointer had tied the score. Several of Singleton's shots came off passes from Jaquez, who logged five assists while finding the open teammate.

"They tend to swarm and attack the dribbler," Cronin said, "and the game plan was when they do that to find Dave."

UCLA also wanted to squeeze more production out of a bench that had been held scoreless last weekend against Colorado. That mission was doubly important considering Arizona State's rotation goes 10 deep.

Freshman guard Dylan Andrews provided a spark off the bench with five quick points in the first half — plus a technical foul for apparent taunting after he got tangled up in midair with Arizona State's Devan Cambridge on a dunk and said something to his Sun Devils counterpart before heading back down the court.

Andrews finished with seven points, all coming with his team trailing.

"Dylan's baskets tonight, huge," Cronin said. "I'm talking about against a real team, in this environment, it gives you a lot of confidence for his future."

A notable reinforcement could arrive before the end of the weekend. Cronin said Bailey looked good in the team's shootaround Thursday and might be able to play against Arizona on Saturday depending on how he felt Friday.

It would be just another win for a team that continues to pile them up.

NO. 5 UCLA 74, ARIZONA STATE 62

UCLA

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Bona	27	2-4	1-2	2-3	0	3	5
Campbell	34	7-11	8-9	2-3	2	1	22
Clark	39	3-9	4-5	2-8	1	1	10
Singleton	38	7-10	3-3	2-4	1	1	21
Jaquez	28	4-12	0-2	2-6	5	3	9
Nwuba	13	0-1	0-0	0-1	0	2	0
Andrews	12	3-4	0-0	0-2	1	3	7
McClendon	7	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Canka	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Totals		**26-52**	**16-21**	**10-27**	**10**	**15**	**74**

Shooting: Field goals, 50.0%; free throws, 76.2%
Three-point goals: 6-14 (Singleton 4-6, Andrews 1-1, Jaquez 1-3, Campbell 0-1, McClendon 0-1, Clark 0-2). Team Rebounds: 3. Team Turnovers: 2. Blocked Shots: 4 (Bona 2, Clark 2). Turnovers: 11 (Bona 5, Campbell 2, Clark 2, Andrews, Jaquez). Steals: 8 (Clark 3, Jaquez 2, Andrews, Campbell, Singleton). Technical Fouls: Andrews, 4:31 first.

ARIZONA ST.

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Washington	33	2-4	5-6	1-7	2	2	9
Des.Cambridge	30	6-14	0-0	0-3	1	2	15
Dev.Cambridge	30	3-9	0-0	3-4	1	1	6
Collins	30	2-3	0-0	0-3	3	2	6
Horne	34	4-9	4-4	1-2	3	3	14
Nunez	13	4-6	0-0	0-0	1	1	10
Gaffney	10	0-1	0-2	0-1	0	0	0
Muhammad	8	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Neal	5	0-1	0-0	0-1	0	2	0
Brennan	4	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	2	0
Boakye	3	1-1	0-0	0-0	1	0	2
Totals		**22-49**	**9-12**	**5-21**	**12**	**15**	**62**

Shooting: Field goals, 44.9%; free throws, 75.0%
Three-point goals: 9-22 (Des.Cambridge 3-7, Collins 2-2, Horne 2-4, Nunez 2-4, Gaffney 0-1, Dev.Cambridge 0-4). Team Rebounds: 4. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 6 (Washington 3, Dev.Cambridge 2, Boakye). Turnovers: 17 (Collins 4, Dev.Cambridge 4, Des.Cambridge 3, Horne 2, Nunez 2, Neal, Washington). Steals: 5 (Horne 2, Nunez 2, Des.Cambridge). Technical Fouls: None.

UCLA	**30**	**44—**	**74**
Arizona St.	**35**	**27—**	**62**

A—NA

SOUTHLAND

YOUNG KWAK Associated Press

MICHAEL GRAHAM grabs a rebound for Loyola Marymount during its upset win at No. 6 Gonzaga.

MEN

Loyola stuns Gonzaga

WIRE REPORTS

Cam Shelton banked in a go-ahead runner with 13 seconds left and Loyola Marymount ended No. 6 Gonzaga's 75-game home winning streak with a 68-67 victory Thursday night at Spokane, Wash.

The home streak for the Bulldogs (16-4, 5-1 West Coast Conference) had been tied with Long Beach State (1968-74) for the eighth-longest in Division I history.

Shelton scored 27 points to lead the Lions (14-7, 4-3), who hadn't won in Spokane since 1991 and had lost 25 straight overall to the Bulldogs.

"Not too many people are going to come up here and win, so I think it just stands and validates the guys we have in the locker room and all the things we've been trying to accomplish," Loyola Marymount coach Stan Johnson said.

Saint Mary's 73, at Pepperdine 44: Logan Johnson scored 17 points and Alex Ducas scored 15 in an easy victory at Malibu for the Gaels (17-4, 6-0), who took over sole possession of first place in the WCC. Houston Mallette led the Waves with 15 points.

at Long Beach State 72, Cal State Fullerton 67: Marcus Tsohonis scored 17 points off the bench and the 49ers (9-10, 3-4) held off the Titans (10-10, 4-4) in a Big West Conference game. Jalen Harris led Fullerton and all scorers with 18 points.

UC Riverside 74, at UC Davis 72: Zyon Pullin's layup with 2.6 seconds left lifted the Highlanders (14-6, 7-1) over the Aggies (11-8, 4-3) in a Big West game. Flynn Cameron led with 19 points.

at UC Irvine 76, Hawaii 68: DJ Davis led three starters in double figures with 18 points to power the Anteaters (13-6, 6-1) over the Rainbow Warriors (14-5, 5-2) in a Big West game.

at UC Santa Barbara 72, Cal State Northridge 50: Ajay Mitchell scored 18 points and Miles Norris had 17 to lift the Gauchos (15-3, 6-1) over the Matadors (3-16, 0-8) in a Big West game.

WOMEN TONIGHT

UCLA at Washington 7
USC at Washington State 7

TOP 25 ROUNDUP

No. 3 LSU remains undefeated

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Angel Reese had 30 points and 19 rebounds to tie a Lousiana State record with 19 straight double-doubles and the No. 3 and unbeaten Tigers pushed their program-record winning streak to 19 games with a 79-76 victory over visiting Arkansas on Thursday night.

Arkansas was in position to take the lead from LSU (19-0, 7-0 SEC) in the final minute, but Erin Barnum's three-point attempt with 24 seconds to go rimmed out and Reese snagged the crucial rebound.

at No. 17 North Carolina 61, No. 13 Duke 56: Deja Kelly scored 19 points, Alyssa Ustby had 10 of her 16 in a pivotal third quarter and North Carolina ended Duke's 11-game winning streak.

Men

at Michigan State 70, No. 23 Rutgers 57: A.J. Hoggard had 16 points and seven assists to help four teammates reach double figures, lifting Michigan State to its eighth win in 10 games.

Results

MEN'S TOP 25
No. 3 Purdue 61, Minnesota 39
No. 5 UCLA 74, Arizona State 62
Loyola Marymount 68, No. 6 Gonzaga 67
No. 11 Arizona 81, USC 66
No. 18 Charleston 69, Monmouth 55
Michigan State 70, No. 23 Rutgers 57
No. 24 Florida Atlantic 83, Texas San Antonio 64

WOMEN'S TOP 25
No. 1 South Carolina 96, Vanderbilt 48
No. 2 Ohio State 84, Northwestern 54
No. 3 Louisiana State 79, Arkansas 76
No. 7 Notre Dame 57, Clemson 54
No. 11 Maryland 77, Wisconsin 64
No. 12 Virginia Tech 69, Pittsburgh 62
No. 17 North Carolina 61, No. 13 Duke 56
No. 14 Michigan 81, Rutgers 58
No. 16 Gonzaga 81, Pacific 78
No. 20 North Carolina State 71, Miami 61

Brentwood's smooth-shooting Houegban on the rise

ERIC SONDHEIMER
ON HIGH SCHOOLS

Jordan Houegban is a 16-year-old L.A. kid with African roots raised by a single mother. He fell in love with basketball from the first day he showed up as a 5-year-old at the Palisades Recreation Center.

"I was always telling my mom when I was young I wanted to play basketball," said Houegban, whose mother was born in Sierra Leone and father in Benin. "She finally listened. I signed up for a team and it was one of the best experiences I ever had and made me love basketball."

Watching Houegban shoot a three-point attempt for Brentwood School is like appreciating an eagle in full flight. There's beauty in his high-arching shot, and when it drops perfectly through the net, you want to instantly replay it because it looks so smooth and masterful in flight.

It has been perfected through hours of practice in gyms in the morning and at night.

"I think Jordan is going to be great," Brentwood coach Ryan Bailey said. "Even after a good shooting night, he's back in the gym at 7 a.m. the next morning."

The thing is Houegban looks like he's in the middle of another growth spurt. He's 6 feet 1 but runs the court with feet that are expanding, which explains his size 13 shoes and occasional awkwardness.

"I'm definitely going through a growth spurt," he said.

Added Bailey: "When you shake his hand, it's like a mitt around you."

Houegban's mother, Maya, emigrated from Sierra Leone to New York when she was 5. His father is 6-5. She's 5-4, and when Jordan passed her and his older sister in height, the family dynamic changed.

"That's why I knew I had to get him under control before he got taller than me," his mother said. "Now he towers over me. I can't look down at him and tell him anything."

Jordan always listens to his mother.

"We believe in education," she said. "Made sure it's a daily thing, not Monday through Friday, but every day."

His sister attends Pennsylvania. Maya has been the parent in charge for years, and she has relied on a series of coaches to help Jordan develop his skills. His willingness and enthusiasm to embrace those helping him on his basketball journey have put him on a path to success.

Bailey is just hoping he doesn't miss the growth spurt while Houegban is at Brentwood.

Lots of things will change if he ends up 6-4. Bailey has been working with Houegban since he enrolled in sixth grade.

He's averaging 16 points this season for 18-3 Brentwood. He made 12 three-pointers and finished with 36 points Thursday against Calabasas Viewpoint.

"You knew he was going to be good because he had the desire," Bailey said. "Some kids talk it. He walks it."

And he never forgets who's the boss at home even if he's the tallest.

"At the end of the day, I'm a fiery, short person," his mother said. "I grew up in New York. You will listen. I will be the boss until he graduates."

CRAIG WESTON For The Times

JORDAN HOUEGBAN of Brentwood School is a 6-foot-1 junior guard, who wears size 13 shoes. He's still growing as he develops into a top outside shooter.

NHL STANDINGS

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Pacific	W	L	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Seattle	27	14	4	58	165	142
Vegas	28	16	2	58	149	133
KINGS	25	16	6	56	154	161
Edmonton	26	18	3	55	174	155
Calgary	21	16	9	51	144	140
Vancouver	18	23	3	39	152	178
San Jose	14	23	9	37	142	175
DUCKS	13	28	5	31	110	193
Central	**W**	**L**	**OL**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
Dallas	27	13	7	61	163	124
Winnipeg	29	16	1	59	150	122
Minnesota	25	15	4	54	140	125
Colorado	23	17	3	49	135	122
St. Louis	23	20	3	49	146	162
Nashville	21	18	6	48	124	133
Arizona	14	26	5	33	119	165
Chicago	13	26	4	30	102	158

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Metropolitan	W	L	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Carolina	28	9	8	64	146	122
New Jersey	29	12	4	62	159	120
NY Rangers	25	14	7	57	145	123
Washington	25	17	6	56	154	133
Pittsburgh	22	15	7	51	143	135
NY Islanders	23	19	5	51	139	131
Philadelphia	19	20	7	45	128	149
Columbus	13	30	2	28	114	177
Atlantic	**W**	**L**	**OL**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
Boston	36	5	4	76	173	96
Toronto	28	11	7	63	156	122
Tampa Bay	29	14	1	59	160	129
Florida	22	20	5	49	158	160
Buffalo	22	19	3	47	166	152
Detroit	19	17	8	46	137	151
Ottawa	20	21	3	43	131	143
Montreal	19	24	3	41	122	169

Note: Overtime or shootout losses worth one point.

RESULTS

DALLAS 4 AT KINGS 0	Tyler Seguin scored twice in the first period and Scott Wedgewood had 34 saves for his first shutout this season.
DUCKS 5 AT COLUMBUS 3	The Ducks rallied from a 3-0 deficit and John Gibson became the franchise's No. 2 goalie in career victories.
BOSTON 3 AT N.Y. RANGERS 1	Jeremy Swayman made 31 saves as the NHL-leading Bruins improved to 15-1-3 in their last 19 games.
CHICAGO 4 AT PHILADELPHIA 1	Jonathan Toews had a goal and an assist as Chicago won its first regular-season game in Philadelphia since 1996.
FLORIDA 6 AT MONTREAL 2	Matthew Tkachuk scored twice in Florida's five-goal second but Sergei Bobrovsky left with a lower-body injury.
AT CAROLINA 5 MINNESOTA 2	Defensemen Brent Burns, Brady Skjei and Jalen Chatfield each scored to end the Wild's three-game win streak.
AT TORONTO 4 WINNIPEG 1	Maple Leafs star Auston Matthews scored twice early in the second period and Ilya Samsonov made 37 saves.
AT BUFFALO 3 N.Y. ISLANDERS 2 (OT)	Dylan Cozens scored 12 seconds into overtime to lift the Sabres, who retired goalie Ryan Miller's No. 30 pregame.
AT ST. LOUIS 5 NASHVILLE 2	Robert Thomas and Brendan Saad each had a goal and an assist, sending St. Louis to its second straight victory.
AT EDMONTON 5 TAMPA BAY 3	Zach Hyman scored two goals and Connor McDavid got his league-leading 39th goal to lift the Oilers.
WASHINGTON 4 AT ARIZONA 0	Dylan Strome scored twice and Darcy Kuemper made 27 saves for his 30th career shutout to lead the Capitals.
DETROIT 3 AT VEGAS 2	Joe Veleno scored the decisive goal in the second period and the Red Wings ended a three-game losing streak.
AT SEATTLE 4 NEW JERSEY 3 (OT)	Andre Burakovsky scored 70 seconds into the extra period and Martin Jones made 27 saves for the Kraken.

TODAY'S GAMES

Ottawa at Pittsburgh, 4 p.m.

Colorado at Vancouver, 7 p.m.

Kings shut down by Stars

L.A.'s offense sputters as Wedgewood makes 34 saves in his first shutout of season.

DALLAS 4, KINGS 0

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tyler Seguin scored twice in the first period, Scott Wedgewood made 34 saves for his first shutout this season and the Dallas Stars beat the Kings 4-0 on Thursday at Crypto.com Arena.

Arcadia's Jason Robertson had a goal and an assist for the Stars, who bounced back after blowing a three-goal lead Wednesday night in a loss at San Jose.

Esa Lindell also scored for the Dallas, which moved into the Central Division lead with a Western Conference-best 61 points.

Seguin also had an assist to match a season high with three points. It was his 44th multi-goal game with the Stars. Only teammate Jamie Benn has more with Dallas (45) among active skaters.

Wedgewood entered 2-2 in his career against the Kings but earned his sixth NHL shutout.

The Kings had won four of six but were blanked for the third time since Dec. 8. The Kings were 0 for four on the power play after scoring seven times in 18 opportunities this month. Pheonix Copley, who fell to 12-3, allowed four goals on 17 shots before being pulled. Jonathan Quick stopped seven shots in 33 minutes.

ASHLEY LANDIS Associated Press

THE STARS' Jason Robertson (21) scores against Kings goaltender Pheonix Copley as defenseman Sean Durzi (50) tries to defend during the second period.

Seguin opened the scoring at 6:54 of the first when his snap shot from the top of the slot went off the inside of Copley's blocker and then through his legs.

The Stars' center then scored his second goal in the opening period for the first time since 2017 with a shot from the left faceoff circle at 17:20. Lindell made it 3-0 just 84 seconds later when his snap shot from the slot hit the post and went in. Robertson chased Copley at 7:27 of the second with his second attempt on a wrap-around.

Robertson was stopped on his first try before and beating Copley on his short side. Robertson has three goals and six points in three games against the Kings this season, along with four goals and seven points in five career meetings.

STARS 4, KINGS 0

Dallas	3	1	0	– 4
KINGS	0	0	0	– 0

FIRST PERIOD: 1. Dal., Seguin 13 (Robertson, Pavelski), 6:54. 2. Dal., Seguin 14, 17:20. 3. Dal., Lindell 6 (Benn, Johnston), 18:44. **Penalties**—None.

SECOND PERIOD: 4. Dal., Robertson 31 (Seguin, Heiskanen), 7:27. **Penalties**—Seguin, DAL (Hooking), 3:09. Fiala, KINGS (High Sticking), 8:21. Danault, KINGS (Hooking), 10:07. Robertson, DAL (Hooking), 15:39. Lemieux, KINGS (Roughing), 18:22.

THIRD PERIOD: Scoring—None. **Penalties**—Kiviranta, DAL (Holding), 1:36. Lizotte, KINGS (Hooking), 5:25. Marchment, DAL (Tripping), 7:20.

SHOTS ON GOAL: Dal. 12-10-2—24. KINGS 9-11-14—34. Power-play conversions—Dal. 0 of 4. KINGS 0 of 4.

GOALIES: Dal., Wedgewood 7-6-3 (34 shots-34 saves). KINGS, Copley 12-3-0 (17-13), KINGS, Quick 8-10-4 (7-7). Att—18,230 (18,230). T—2:25.

Ducks find scoring touch in time to end slide

They erase a 3-0 deficit in the second period and go on to break five-game skid.

DUCKS 5
COLUMBUS 3

ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Cam Fowler, Trevor Zegras and Adam Henrique each had a goal and an assist and the Ducks overcame a three-goal deficit to beat the Columbus Blue Jackets 5-3 on Thursday night and end a five-game losing streak.

"I think it was good resiliency by our group," Fowler said. "Obviously, we didn't get off to the start that we wanted to, but at this point in the season, how tough things have gone for us, we still continue to fight and claw our way back in the game and then a big third period. It's something we should be proud of."

The Ducks scored three times in the second period before putting in the third-period winner.

It was the Ducks' fifth multi-goal comeback this season, tying them with New Jersey for the NHL lead.

Simon Benoit and Max Jones also scored and Isac Lundestrom and Troy Terry each had two assists.

Anthony Stolarz stopped 12 shots before being replaced by John Gibson, who stopped all 18 shots he faced.

Gibson's victory carried him past Guy Hebert for second on the team's all-time wins list with 174.

He trails Jean-Sebastien Giguere with 206.

"It's an honor," Gibson said of the milestone. "Obviously, there were a lot of great goalies who played here in the past. To be able to pass some names is an honor."

Mathieu Olivier, Jack Roslovic and Nick Blankenburg scored for Columbus and Elvis Merzlikins stopped 28 shots.

The Blue Jackets have lost three straight and seven of their last eight, including three in a row at home.

Both teams remained last in their divisions.

Columbus scored on its first two shots of the game, from Olivier, for his first goal since Nov. 23, and Roslovic. Blankenburg made it 3-0 with 2:17 left in the period.

DUCKS 5, BLUE JACKETS 3

DUCKS	0	3	2	– 5
Columbus	3	0	0	– 3

FIRST PERIOD: 1. Clm., Olivier 3 (Robinson, Boqvist), 2:17. 2. Clm., Roslovic 4, 6:05. 3. Clm., Blankenburg 3 (Laine, Gaudreau), 17:43. **Penalties**—Gudbranson, CBJ (Tripping), 3:03. Olivier, CBJ (Fighting), 15:01. Carrick, DUCKS (Fighting), 15:01.

SECOND PERIOD: 4. DUCKS, Henrique 16 (Lundestrom, Terry), 0:22. 5. DUCKS, Fowler 5 (Comtois, Zegras), 13:07. 6. DUCKS, Benoit 2 (Terry, Henrique), 15:02. **Penalties**—None.

THIRD PERIOD: 7. DUCKS, Zegras 15 (Fowler, Strome), 5:07. 8. DUCKS, Jones 3 (Megna, Lundestrom), 15:31. **Penalties**—Peeke, CBJ (Delay of Game), 6:54. Jones, DUCKS (Tripping), 10:50. Berni, CBJ (Slashing), 13:13.

SHOTS ON GOAL: DUCKS 9-10-14—33. Clm. 15-8-10—33. Power-play conversions—DUCKS 0 of 3. Clm. 0 of 1.

GOALIES: DUCKS, Stolarz 3-6-0 (15 shots-12 saves). Clm., Merzlikins 5-13-0 (33-28). Att—16,017 (18,500). T—2:25. .

TENNIS RESULTS

$54-MILLION AUSTRALIAN OPEN
At Melbourne
Surface: Hard-outdoor

MEN'S SINGLES (second round)—Jenson Brooksby d. Casper Ruud (2), Norway, 6-3, 7-5, 6-7 (4), 6-2; Ugo Humbert, France, d. Denis Kudla, 6-2, 6-7 (5), 6-2, 6-4; Grigor Dimitrov (27), Bulgaria, d. Laslo Djere, Serbia, 6-3, 6-2, 6-0; Alexei Popyrin, Australia, d. Taylor Fritz (8), 6-7 (4), 7-6 (2), 6-4, 6-7 (6), 6-2; Michael Mmoh d. Alexander Zverev (12), Germany, 6-7 (1), 6-4, 6-3, 6-2; Holger Rune (9), Denmark, d. Maxime Cressy, 7-5, 6-4, 6-4; Roberto Bautista Agut (24), Spain, d. Brandon Holt, 4-6, 2-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-2; Benjamin Bonzi, France, d. Pablo Carreno Busta (14), Spain, 4-6, 4-6, 7-6 (5), 6-1, 7-6 (4); Novak Djokovic (4), Serbia, d. Enzo Couacaud, France, 6-1, 6-7 (5), 6-2, 6-0; Alex de Minaur (22), Australia, d. Adrian Mannarino, France, 7-6 (3), 4-6, 6-4, 6-1; Andy Murray, Britain, d. Thanasi Kokkinakis, Australia, 4-6, 6-7 (4), 7-6 (5), 6-3, 7-5.

(Third round)—Jannik Sinner (15), Italy, d. Marton Fucsovics, Hungary, 4-6, 4-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-0; Stefanos Tsitsipas (3), Greece, d. Tallon Griekspoor, Netherlands, 6-2, 7-6 (5), 6-3.

WOMEN'S SINGLES (second round)—Donna Vekic, Croatia, d. Liudmila Samsonova (18), Russia, 6-3, 6-0; Camila Giorgi, Italy, d. Anna-Karolina Schmiedlova, Slovakia, 6-4, 6-3; Karolina Pliskova (30), Czech Republic, d. Yulia Putintseva, Kazakhstan, 6-0, 7-5; Linda Fruhvirtova, Czech Republic, d. Kimberly Birrell, Australia, 6-3, 6-2; Nuria Parrizas Diaz, Spain, d. Anastasia Potapova, Russia, 6-3, 6-2; Zhang Shuai (23), China, d. Petra Martic, Croatia, 6-3, 6-3; Laura Siegemund, Germany, d. Irina-Camelia Begu (27), Romania, 5-7, 7-5, 6-3; Caroline Garcia (4), France, d. Leylah Annie Fernandez, Canada, 7-6 (5), 7-5; Vanvara Gracheva, Russia, d. Lucrezia Stefanini, Italy, 6-3, 6-1; Belinda Bencic (12), Switzerland, d. Claire Liu, 7-6 (3), 6-3; Marketa Vondrousova, Czech Republic, d. Ons Jabeur (2), Tunisia, 6-1, 5-7, 6-1.

(Third round)—Barbora Krejcikova (20), Czech Republic, d. Anhelina Kalinina, Ukraine, 6-2, 6-3; Jessica Pegula (3), d. Marta Kostyuk, Ukraine, 6-0, 6-2; Elena Rybakina (22), Kazakhstan, d. Danielle Collins (13), 6-2, 5-7, 6-2.

MEN'S DOUBLES (first round)—Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi, Pakistan-Nikola Cacic, Serbia, d. Joao Sousa-Francisco Cabral, Portugal, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4; Michael Venus, New Zealand-Jamie Murray (11), Britain, d. Cristian Rodriguez, Colombia, and Hunter Reese, 6-4, 6-2; Raven Klaasen-Lloyd Harris, South Africa, d. Thiago Monteiro, Brazil-Pedro Martinez, Spain, 7-6 (5), 7-6 (9); Stefanos Tsitsipas-Petros Tsitsipas, Greece, d. Miguel Angel Reyes-Varela, Mexico-Ramkumar Ramanathan, India, 3-6, 7-5, 6-3; Alex Molcan, Slovakia-Jiri Lehecka, Czech Republic, d. Tomas Martin Etcheverry-Francisco Cerundolo, Argentina, 6-4, 7-6 (5); Jason Kubler-Rinky Hijikata, Australia, d. John Isner, and Hans Hach Verdugo, Mexico, 7-6 (6), 6-4; Robert Farah-Juan Sebastian Cabal (12), Colombia, d. Juan Pablo Varillas, Peru-Daniel Altmaier, Germany, 6-4, 6-7 (6), 6-1; Hugo Nys, Monaco-Jan Zielinski, Poland, d. David Vega Hernandez, Spain-Rafael Matos (13), Brazil, 6-7 (4), 6-4, 6-4; Marcelo Demoliner, Brazil-Andrea Vavassori, Italy, d. Sander Gille-Joran Vliegen, Belgium, 6-7 (5), 7-6 (4), 7-6 (4); Jordan Thompson-Max Purcell, Australia, d. Philipp Oswald, Austria-Guillermo Duran, Argentina, 6-3, 6-4; Harri Heliovaara, Finland-Lloyd Glasspool (6), Britain, d. Nathaniel Lammons and Jackson Withrow, 7-6 (3), 6-3;Jean-Julien Rojer, Netherlands-Marcelo Arevalo-Gonzalez (3), El Salvador, d. Diego Hidalgo, Ecuador-Emil Ruusuvuori, Finland, 6-1, 7-6 (1); Luke Saville-Alex Bolt, Australia, d. Diego Schwartzman-Federico Coria, Argentina, 6-2, 6-4; Lucas Miedler-Alexander Erler, Austria, d. Rohan Bopanna, India-Matthew Ebden (10), Australia, 6-3, 7-5; Fabien Reboul-d Sadio Doumbia, France, d. Simone Bolelli-Fabio Fognini (9), Italy, 6-3, 6-3.

(Second round)—Robin Haase-Matwe Middelkoop (16), Netherlands, d. Julian Cash-Henry Patten, Britain, 6-4, 7-6 (6); Gonzalo Escobar, Ecuador-Tomislav Brkic, Bosnia-Herzegovina, d. Michael Venus, New Zealand-Jamie Murray (11), Britain, 7-6 (5), 6-4.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES (first round)—Latisha Chan, Taiwan-Alexa Guarachi, Chile, d. Lucia Bronzetti- Elisabetta Cocciaretto, Italy, 6-1, 6-1; Elena-Gabriela Ruse, Romania-Marta Kostyuk, Ukraine, d. Heather Watson, Britain, and Danielle Collins, 6-4, 6-2; Sania Mirza, India-Anna Danilina (8), Kazakhstan, d. Bernarda Pera, and Dalma Galfi, Hungary, 6-2, 7-5; Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, Russia, and Elena Rybakina, Kazakhstan, d. Lyudmyla Kichenok, Ukraine-Jelena Ostapenko (5), Latvia, 6-4, 6-4; Wang Xinyu, China-Moyuka Uchijima, Japan, d. Olivia Tjandramulia-Talia Gibson, Australia, 6-3, 6-3; Nadiia Kichenok, Ukraine-Kimberley Zimmermann, Belgium, d. Lizette Cabrera-Alexandra Bozovic, Australia, 6-4, 6-3; Jessica Pegula and Coco Gauff (2), d. Tereza Martincova, Czech Republic,-Donna Vekic, Croatia, 7-6 (2), 3-6, 6-2; Nicole Melichar-Martinez, and Ellen Perez (9), Australia, d. Vivian Heisen, Germany-Ekaterina Alexandrova, Russia, 6-2, 6-1; Gabriela Dabrowski, Canada-Giuliana Olmos (3), Mexico, d. Irina-Camelia Begu, Romania, and Shelby Rogers, 4-6, 6-2, 6-2; Shuko Aoyama-Ena Shibahara (10), Japan, d. Magda Linette, Poland-Wang Xiyu, China, 7-5, 3-6, 6-3; Asia Muhammad and Taylor Townsend (12), d. Nadia Podoroska, Argentina-Mayar Sherif, Egypt, 6-1, 6-2; Storm Sanders, Australia-Elise Mertens (4), Belgium, d. Veronika Kudermetova-Liudmila Samsonova, Russia, 2-6, 7-6 (6), 6-1; Yana Sizikova-Anastasia Potapova, Russia, d. Kirsten Flipkens, Belgium-Laura Siegemund (13), Germany, 7-6 (2), 6-4.

(Second round)—Aldila Sutjiadi, Indonesia-Miyu Kato (16), Japan, d. Marie Bouzkova, Czech Republic-Camila Osorio, Colombia, 6-3, 6-7 (4), 6-3.

MIXED DOUBLES (second round)—Rafael Matos-Luisa Stefani, Brazil, d. Han Xinyun-Zhang Zhizhen, China, 6-2, 6-0.

DITA ALANGKARA Associated Press

SECOND-SEEDED Ons Jabeur was upset by Marketa Vondrousova 6-1, 5-7, 6-1 in the second round.

Pegula, Gauff win but Collins ousted

The American women move into the fourth round but last year's finalist is eliminated.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MELBOURNE, Australia — Jessica Pegula cruised into the fourth round of the Australian Open on Friday with a 6-0, 6-2 win over Marta Kostyuk.

The third-seeded Pegula, a quarterfinalist the last two years at Melbourne Park, needed 65 minutes for victory as the American set up a round-of-16 match against Barbora Krejcikova, the 2021 French Open champion.

"I thought I just didn't give away a lot of free points," Pegula said. "I was playing aggressive when I had to but also smart. Happy to be through to the next round."

Last year's finalist, Danielle Collins, of the U.S. was beaten 6-2, 5-7, 6-2 by Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina but Coco Gauff later swept past fellow American Bernarda Pera 6-3, 6-2.

Krejcikova was the first player to advance to the fourth round after a 6-2, 6-3 win over Anhelina Kalinina to open play Friday.

The 20th-seeded Czech player won the first five games of the match and dominated her Ukrainian opponent. Krejcikova has not dropped a set in three matches.

In men's play, Stefanos Tsitsipas will take on Jannik Sinner in the fourth round.

Third-seeded Tsitsipas saved a set point in the second set but beat Tallon Griekspoor 6-2, 7-6 (5), 6-3 to reach the last 16 at Melbourne Park for the third time in four years. Sinner recovered from two sets down for the first time in his career as he beat Marton Fucsovics 4-6, 4-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-0 after 3 hours, 33 minutes, winning the last 12 games.

"For sure the first two sets were very tough for me," the 21-year-old Italian and 15th-seeded player said. "I went on court with one tactic, then I had to change a little bit, going a little more to his backhand. We made a lot of work in the offseason physically so today I was good physically in the last few sets."

Tsitsipas is the highest-ranked player left in the men's draw after the exits of No. 1 Rafael Nadal and No. 2 Casper Ruud.

GOLF

Thompson on top at La Quinta

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PGA Tour rookie Davis Thompson played his first six holes in seven under, including consecutive eagles, and shot a career-low 10-under-par 62 at La Quinta on Thursday to take a two-stroke lead over Jon Rahm and four others after the first round of the American Express.

Thompson birdied three of the first four holes and then made eagle on both par-fives on the front nine, Nos. 5 and 6. He made the turn in eight-under 28, the lowest front-nine score at La Quinta.

The start on a sunny day in the desert put Thompson two clear of Rahm, Tyler Duncan, Taylor Montgomery, Matti Schmid and Sam Burns.

"I just got off to a hot start and just kind of coasted on my way in," said Thompson, who finished with a birdie. "It's always good to see some putts go in early and give you confidence to just keep it rolling."

Rahm, the world's fourth-ranked player who won two weeks ago at Kapalua, shot 64 at La Quinta, one of three courses being used for the first three rounds. After the cut at 54 holes, the final round will be played at the Stadium Course at PGA West.

The field includes five of the top seven players in the world and 10 of the top 20.

Henderson ahead

Brooke Henderson enjoyed the opening day of a fresh LPGA season, shooting a five-under 67 on the Lake Nona course to take a one-shot lead in the Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions at Orlando, Fla.

Henderson started fast with birdies on three of her first eight holes. She added three more against one bogey on her inward nine to take a one-shot lead over Nelly Korda, who at No. 2 is the highest-ranked player in this week's winners-only field.

England's Charley Hull and first-time winners Gemma Dryburgh (Scotland) and Ashleigh Buhai (South Africa) opened with 69s.

LIV Golf TV deal

Saudi-funded LIV Golf announced a television partnership five weeks before the start of its second season, revealing it has an agreement with the CW to air tournaments on the weekend and stream the first rounds on the CW's app.

GOLF RESULTS

$8-MILLION THE AMERICAN EXPRESS
At La Quinta—Par 72
a-PGA WEST TPC Stadium Course, 7,187 yards;
b-PGA WEST Nicklaus Course, 7,147 yards;
c-La Quinta Country Club, 7,060 yards;
18-hole leaders

Davis Thompson	28c-34c—62	-10
Sam Burns	29a-35a—64	-8
Tyler Duncan	33b-31b—64	-8
Taylor Montgomery	32c-32c—64	-8
Jon Rahm	31c-33c—64	-8
Matthias Schmid	32a-32a—64	-8
Michael Block	33b-32b—65	-7
Dean Burmester	34b-31b—65	-7
Eric Cole	32b-33b—65	-7
Harrison Endycott	34a-31a—65	-7
Sungjae Im	32b-33b—65	-7
Denny McCarthy	32c-33c—65	-7
J.T. Poston	35b-30b—65	-7
Xander Schauffele	33c-32c—65	-7
Erik Van Rooyen	33a-32a—65	-7
Joseph Bramlett	33b-33b—66	-6
Tano Goya	34a-32a—66	-6
Russell Knox	33a-33a—66	-6
Keith Mitchell	33a-33a—66	-6
Scott Piercy	31c-35c—66	-6
Justin Rose	31c-35c—66	-6
Matthias Schwab	31a-35a—66	-6
Robby Shelton	33a-33a—66	-6
Greyson Sigg	33b-33b—66	-6
Sahith Theegala	32c-34c—66	-6
Trevor Werbylo	34b-32b—66	-6
Byeong Hun An	35b-32b—67	-5
Ryan Brehm	32b-35b—67	-5
Wesley Bryan	33b-34b—67	-5
Stewart Cink	31c-36c—67	-5
Jason Day	33b-34b—67	-5
Garrick Higgo	33a-34a—67	-5
Charley Hoffman	32c-35c—67	-5
Mark Hubbard	32b-35b—67	-5
Zach Johnson	34a-33a—67	-5
Michael Kim	36a-31a—67	-5
Danny Lee	32a-35a—67	-5
Seung-Yul Noh	33b-34b—67	-5
Alex Smalley	32a-35a—67	-5
Kevin Tway	32b-35b—67	-5
Carson Young	32b-35b—67	-5
Brendon Todd	33b-35b—68	-4
Jimmy Walker	36b-32b—68	-4
Richy Werenski	32b-36b—68	-4
Cameron Young	32b-36b—68	-4

$1.5-MILLION LPGA TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS
At Orlando, Fla.—Par 72
Lake Nona Golf & Country Club—6,608 yards
18-hole leaders

Brooke Henderson	33-34—67	-5
Nelly Korda	35-33—68	-4
Ashleigh Buhai	35-34—69	-3
Gemma Dryburgh	36-33—69	-3
Wei-Ling Hsu	31-38—69	-3
Charley Hull	35-34—69	-3
Jodi Ewart Shadoff	36-34—70	-2
Yuka Saso	33-37—70	-2
Pajaree Anannarukarn	38-33—71	-1
Celine Boutier	34-37—71	-1
Ayaka Furue	38-33—71	-1
Nasa Hataoka	35-36—71	-1
Danielle Kang	33-38—71	-1
Leona Maguire	36-35—71	-1
Anna Nordqvist	34-37—71	-1
Lizette Salas	35-36—71	-1
Maja Stark	36-35—71	-1
Matilda Castren	37-35—72	E
Nanna Koerstz Madsen	37-35—72	E
Ryann O'Toole	35-37—72	E
Patty Tavatanakit	35-37—72	E
Jennifer Kupcho	36-37—73	+1
Gaby Lopez	36-37—73	+1
Moriya Jutanugarn	38-36—74	+2
Andrea Lee	38-36—74	+2
Paula Reto	39-35—74	+2
Marina Alex	36-39—75	+3
Ally Ewing	38-41—79	+7
Ariya Jutanugarn	42-42—84	+12

$9-MILLION ABU DHABI HSBC CHAMPIONSHIP
At Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates—Par 72
The Yas Links—7,425 yards
18-hole leaders

Luke Donald, England	32-32—64	-8
Guido Migliozzi, Italy	32-33—65	-7
Jason Scrivener, Australia	32-33—65	-7
Seamus Power, Ireland	31-35—66	-6
Eduardo Molinari, Italy	35-32—67	-5
Francesco Molinari, Italy	34-33—67	-5
Masahiro Kawamura, Japan	32-35—67	-5
Shane Lowry, Ireland	32-35—67	-5
Shubhankar Sharma, India	32-35—67	-5
Sami Valimaki, Finland	33-34—67	-5
Sebastian Soderberg, Sweden	33-34—67	-5
George Coetzee, South Africa	34-34—68	-4
Padraig Harrington, Ireland	33-35—68	-4
Alexander Levy, France	33-35—68	-4
Calum Hill, Scotland	34-34—68	-4
Tommy Fleetwood, Scotland	34-34—68	-4
Henrik Stenson, Sweden	34-34—68	-4
Lee Min Woo, Australia	34-34—68	-4
Connor Syme, Scotland	35-33—68	-4
Chase Hanna, U.S.	34-34—68	-4
Maximilian Kieffer, Germany	34-35—69	-3
Lee Westwood, England	35-34—69	-3
Marcus Kinhult, Sweden	33-36—69	-3
Rafa Cabrera Bello, Spain	33-36—69	-3
Thomas Bjorn, Denmark	34-35—69	-3
Thorbjorn Olesen, Denmark	34-35—69	-3
Antoine Rozner, France	37-32—69	-3
Ewen Ferguson, Scotland	35-34—69	-3
Santiago Tarrio, Spain	34-35—69	-3
Adrian Meronk, Poland	36-34—70	-2
Pablo Larrazabal, Spain	36-34—70	-2
Jorge Campillo, Spain	36-34—70	-2
John Catlin, U.S.	35-35—70	-2
Robert MacIntyre, Scotland	35-35—70	-2
Matthieu Pavon, France	35-35—70	-2
Ashun Wu, China PR	35-35—70	-2
Richie Ramsay, Scotland	36-34—70	-2
Kalle Samooja, Finland	35-35—70	-2
Angel Hidalgo, Spain	35-35—70	-2

CHAMPIONS TOUR
$2-MILLION MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC CHAMPIONSHIP
At Kailua-Kona, Hawaii—Par 72
Hualalai Golf Course—7,107 yards
18-hole scores

Darren Clarke	33-32—65	-7
Kevin Sutherland	32-33—65	-7
Alex Cejka	34-32—66	-6
Ernie Els	34-32—66	-6
Justin Leonard	33-33—66	-6
Corey Pavin	34-32—66	-6
Mike Weir	33-33—66	-6
Michael Allen	33-34—67	-5
Miguel Angel Jimenez	34-33—67	-5
Bernhard Langer	32-35—67	-5
David Frost	34-34—68	-4
Retief Goosen	35-33—68	-4
Scott McCarron	36-32—68	-4
Dicky Pride	32-36—68	-4
Steve Stricker	35-33—68	-4
Ken Tanigawa	35-33—68	-4
Steven Alker	34-35—69	-3
Paul Broadhurst	35-34—69	-3
Joe Durant	36-33—69	-3
Lee Janzen	34-35—69	-3
Jerry Kelly	34-35—69	-3
Tom Lehman	35-34—69	-3
Colin Montgomerie	33-36—69	-3
Scott Parel	36-33—69	-3

THE DAY IN SPORTS

State bill proposes athletes paid by colleges

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

A California lawmaker introduced a bill Thursday that would require schools that play major college sports to pay some athletes as much as $25,000 annually, along with covering the cost of six-year guaranteed athletic scholarships and post-college medical expenses.

The College Athlete Protection Act is sponsored by Assemblymember **Chris Holden**, who is a former San Diego State basketball player, and is the type of state-level legislation that the NCAA is looking to federal lawmakers to preempt.

"I know how close you can come to an injury taking away not only the game you love to play but also your opportunity to finish college," Holden said at a news conference outside the Rose Bowl.

Notre Dame's winningest men's basketball coach, **Mike Brey**, will step down at the end of his school-record 23rd season, school officials announced. ... Longtime NFL defensive back **Patrick Surtain Sr.** will join the Florida State staff as its defensive backs coach, the school announced. ... Washington Commanders assistant running backs coach **Jennifer King** will coach the position for the Senior Bowl. King, who became the first Black female assistant position coach in NFL history after the 2020 season, will coach the National team running backs.

ETC.

LAFC stadium has a new name

LAFC and Angel City FC's home has a new name with Montreal-based bank BMO replacing Banc of California as the stadium's title sponsor, the team announced. BMO also holds the naming rights to Toronto FC's stadium and is Toronto's uniform sponsor as well.

Announcement of the partnership comes one day after BMO won regulatory approval for a $16.3-billion deal to take over San Francisco-based Bank of the West, expanding its reach in the U.S. across nine states.

— Kevin Baxter

Forward **Christian Ramirez**, who starred at Westminster La Quinta High, is returning to MLS with the Columbus Crew. He transferred from Scotland's Aberdeen and agreed to a two-year deal with the Crew that includes a team option for 2025.

Florida Panthers coach **Paul Maurice** was fined $25,000 by the NHL for criticizing the officiating in his team's game at the Toronto Maple Leafs earlier this week. ... Philadelphia Flyers coach **John Tortorella** defended Russian defenseman **Ivan Provorov's** decision to cite religious beliefs as his reason to boycott the team's pregame Pride celebration. "Provy did nothing wrong," Tortorella said. "Just because you don't agree with his decision doesn't mean he did anything wrong."

Alan Porter and **Adrian Johnson** became the MLB's second and third Black umpire crew chiefs as the league announced 10 retirements along with promotions from the minors. **Tom Hallion** and **Ted Barrett** are retiring, the commissioner's office said, joined by **Marty Foster**, **Greg Gibson**, **Jim Reynolds**, **Jerry Meals**, **Sam Holbrook**, **Bill Welke**, **Paul Nauert** and **Tim Timmons**. ... Catcher **Tomas Nido** and the New York Mets agreed to a $3.7-million, two-year contract. ... The Seattle Mariners signed infielder **Tommy La Stella** to a one-year contract, adding another versatile veteran to their roster. ... The Kansas City Royals and reliever **Aroldis Chapman** agreed to a $3.75-million, one-year contract, a person familiar with the deal told the Associated Press.

The Minnesota Vikings fired defensive coordinator **Ed Donatell**, an unsurprising decision on the veteran coach after a dismal finish by his defense. ... The Buffalo Bills, Tennessee Titans, Jacksonville Jaguars, Kansas City Chiefs and New England Patriots will each play international games during the NFL's 2023 regular season. The Chiefs and Patriots will play in Germany. The Bills, Titans and Jaguars will play in London. ... The Miami Dolphins fired **Josh Boyer** after three seasons as the team's defensive coordinator, the team announced. ... **Byron Leftwich** is out as offensive coordinator of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, who are shaking up their coaching staff after finishing with the only losing record **Tom Brady** has had in more than two decades as an NFL starter. Coach **Todd Bowles** also announced **Chris Boniol** (specialists), **Kevin Garver** (wide receivers), **Jeff Kastl** (offensive quality control), **Lori Locust** (assistant defensive line) and **Todd McNair** (running backs) will not return next season. .... **Greg Roman** is leaving Baltimore after four seasons as offensive coordinator for other opportunities after the Ravens' wild-card loss.

Dallas Mavericks forward **Christian Wood** will miss multiple games because of a broken left thumb. ... New York Knicks center **Mitchell Robinson** will miss at least three weeks after surgery for a fractured right thumb.

Snead mulls options for Rams

[**Rams,** from B10]

Snead, the Rams' general manager since 2012, declined to specify which players could be re-signed, released or dangled as potential trade pieces for a team that will be without a first-round draft pick for the seventh year in row.

"All things are in play," he said.

Some takeaways from the media briefing:

Sigh of relief

For the second year in a row, McVay publicly pondered stepping away from coaching for a team that in 2017 made the then 30-year-old the youngest coach in modern NFL history.

Snead said he was not surprised.

"The guy's been basically running an 800-meter sprint every week since he got our job," Snead said, adding, "Over time, like at some point, you know a hamstring is going to get tight, a hamstring is going to get pulled and you're not going to be able to do it."

The Rams were prepared if McVay had opted to step away, Snead said.

"It was more we were talking conceptually about how to evolve our, let's call it, daily, monthly, annual rhythms to make this a sustainable outfit," Snead said.

Snead and the Rams can now rest easy ... until the end of next season, when McVay almost certainly will revisit taking a break.

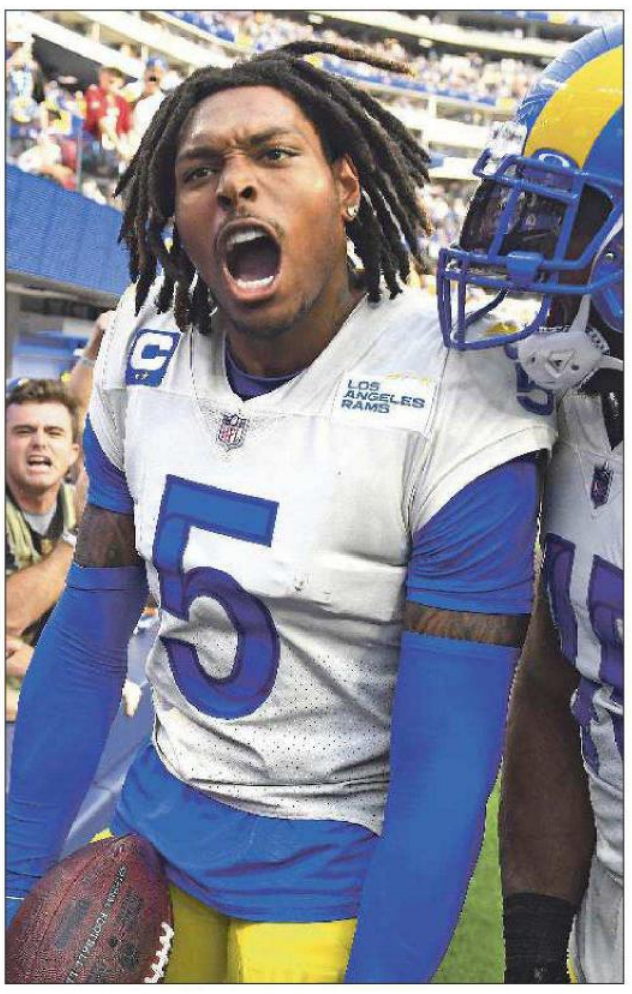
About that remodel

The Rams built their Super Bowl roster by trading multiple first-round picks for Ramsey and Stafford and second- and third-round picks for edge rusher Von Miller, who signed with the Buffalo Bills after last season.

And they did it while navigating huge dead money hits for the release of players such as running back Todd Gurley II and the trade that sent quarterback Jared Goff to the Detroit Lions for Stafford.

Now they are at a crossroads.

"We're probably going to have to, let's call it, not press the gas as much and pay a little bit of the debt that we've accumulated," Snead said.



Wally Skalij Los Angeles Times

JALEN RAMSEY is a star on defense, but the Rams could consider trading him for valuable draft picks.

The Rams paid a price this season as players counted on to play key roles suffered injuries or underperformed.

The Rams still have a top-heavy roster but remain in need of top-tier offensive linemen, an edge rusher, an effective complement for Kupp and depth in the secondary.

Snead did not sound as if he were ready to tear apart the roster and start over.

"We're very well aware that some of our core players, right, are in their primes and are getting closer to the twilight of their primes," he said. "But that does not mean, right, when you're a player like that in your prime that you're still not very productive and can be very successful."

Roster decisions

Stafford, Kupp and Donald, all of whom received extensions or a massive raise after the Super Bowl victory, did not play in the latter part of the 2021 season because of season-ending injuries.

Ramsey did not receive an extension but played in every game.

Right tackle Rob Havenstein signed an extension before the season, and veteran linebacker Bobby Wagner proved a worthwhile investment.

Can the Rams retain the entirety of their core?

Snead declined to say.

"Every year since we've been here," he said, "there's been moments where we've had to say goodbye to key contributors."

On second thought

At a victory rally last February, Snead famously yelled to an adoring crowd, "F them picks. We'll use them to go win more Super Bowls."

Snead was referencing the multiple high-round picks the Rams traded to acquire star players.

"I will admit that any time you probably say something like that ... you're going to eat those words at some point in time," Snead said Thursday, adding that he was having fun with a play off a popular meme. "If we truly believed in effing them picks in that sense of the word, we'd just give them to our division opponents.

"But we've definitely taken the draft serious. We think it's really the heartbeat, right, of the franchise."

Snead said he made a "subliminal slip" at the rally.

"I truly intended to say, 'We effed these picks to win Los Angeles a Super Bowl championship,' " Snead said. "So, I always knew I was going to eat those words at some point."

Feeling a draft

Because of their historically poor finish this season, the Rams would have owned the sixth pick in the April draft, but that belongs to the Lions as part of the Goff-Stafford trade.

With compensation picks for the departure of free agents, Snead projects the Rams will have 10 picks.

But the Rams will not make their first pick until the second round. They also have a third-round pick, but the majority fall in the sixth and seventh rounds.

Snead declined to say whether the Rams would give Ramsey an extension or trade him to acquire draft picks. But he is obviously looking forward to 2024 when the Rams finally will have a first-round pick.

"Getting back to having some first-rounders, getting back to having second- and third-rounders will be advantageous," he said. "Where we're at, probably from a roster standpoint, that will be healthy for us to add younger players, players on their rookie contracts that are going to become cogs.

"We're going to call this Chapter 3 of the Sean McVay era."

PRO CALENDAR

	FRI 20	SAT 21	SUN 22	MON 23	TUE 24
LAKERS	**MEMPHIS** 7 ESPN, SpecSN		**at Portland** 6 SpecSN		**CLIPPERS** 7 TNT
CLIPPERS	**at San Antonio** 5 BSSC		**at Dallas** 11:30 a.m. BSSC		**at Lakers** 7 TNT
KINGS		**at Nashville** 5 BSW	**at Chicago** 4 BSW		**at Philadelphia** 4 BSW
DUCKS		**at Buffalo** 9:30 a.m. BSSC			**at Arizona** 6 BSSC

Shade denotes home game.

TODAY ON THE AIR

TIME	EVENT	ON THE AIR
BASKETBALL		
4:30 p.m.	Miami at Dallas	**TV:** ESPN, ESPND
5 p.m.	Clippers at San Antonio	**TV:** BSSC **R:** 570, 1220
7 p.m.	Memphis at Lakers	**TV:** SpecSN, ESPN **R:** 710, 1330
BOXING		
6 p.m.	Super-middleweights, Sean Hemphill vs. David Stevens	**TV:** Showtime
COLLEGE BASKETBALL		
11:30 a.m.	Women, Colorado at California	**TV:** Pac-12
3:30 p.m.	Ball State at Kent State	**TV:** CBSSN
4 p.m.	Virginia Commonwealth at Richmond	**TV:** ESPN2
4 p.m.	Villanova at St. John's	**TV:** FS1
5:30 p.m.	Toledo at Buffalo	**TV:** CBSSN
6 p.m.	Women, Villanova at Creighton	**TV:** FS1
6 p.m.	Women, Utah at Stanford	**TV:** Pac-12
7 p.m.	Women, UCLA at Washington	**TV:** Pac-12LA
8 p.m.	Boise State at New Mexico	**TV:** FS1
8 p.m.	Women, Oregon at Oregon State	**TV:** Pac-12
COLLEGE WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS		
4 p.m.	Missouri at Louisiana State	**TV:** SEC
5:30 p.m.	Arkansas at Auburn	**TV:** SEC
COLLEGE WRESTLING		
6 p.m.	Nebraska at Iowa	**TV:** Big Ten
GOLF		
9 a.m.	LPGA Tournament of Champions, second round	**TV:** Golf
Noon	The American Express, second round	**TV:** Golf
4 p.m.	Champions Tour, Mitsubishi Electric Championship, second round	**TV:** Golf
11 p.m.	DP World Tour, Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship, third round	**TV:** Golf
HOCKEY		
4 p.m.	Ottawa at Pittsburgh	**TV:** NHL
SOCCER		
11:30 a.m.	Germany, Bayern Munich at Leipzig	**TV:** ESPN2, ESPND
Noon	French Cup, Rennais at Marseille	**TV:** FOXD
3 p.m.	Mexico, women, Pachuca at Juarez	**TV:** FOXD
5 p.m.	Mexico, women, Necaxa at Atlas	**TV:** FOXD
6:30 p.m.	Mexico, Santos Laguna at Mazatlan	**TV:** TUDN
7 p.m.	Mexico, women, Tigres UANL at Tijuana	**TV:** ESPND
TENNIS		
6 p.m.	Australian Open, third round	**TV:** ESPN2
9:30 p.m.	Australian Open, third round	**TV:** ESPND
WINTER SPORTS: FISU WORLD UNIVERSITY GAMES		
11:30 a.m.	Women's hockey, semifinals, Canada vs. Slovakia	**TV:** ESPNU

Telesco says team will focus on improving running game

[**Chargers,** from B10]

been an issue, one that was better addressed this season. The last two years he also has displayed an ability to construct an offensive line.

But top-end success on the field remains elusive. The Chargers haven't won a division title since 2009, when Norv Turner was coach and A.J. Smith general manager.

With star quarterback Justin Herbert three seasons into his career, Telesco continues to face mounting expectations for a franchise that annually has struggled to fulfill its possibilities.

"There are some positives here," Telesco said. "Understand that I'm not sitting up here saying I deserve anything.

"But I like where our roster is headed. I love the coaching staff. ... Seeing the passion [from fans], it's an exciting time here."

Here are some takeaways from the general manager's 40-minute session with reporters:

Quarterback will be involved in hiring process

Telesco said Herbert would have input as the Chargers search for a new offensive coordinator after the firing of Joe Lombardi.

"I know that's what [head coach] Brandon [Staley] thinks," he said, "and that's the way I've always operated with quarterbacks who've kind of earned that."

Such an arrangement isn't unusual in the NFL. Baltimore coach John Harbaugh indicated Thursday that Lamar Jackson would be involved in the Ravens' search for a new offensive coordinator.

The Chargers also need a new quarterbacks coach after letting Shane Day go. The next coordinator will be the third of Herbert's NFL career.

Telesco said experience wasn't necessarily a priority in identifying Lombardi's replacement.

Feeling run down

The Chargers' new offensive coordinator will be tasked with helping revive a running game that too often ground to a halt this season. The Chargers finished 30th in yards rushing per game.

"We'll always be a passing team," Telesco said. "We have Justin Herbert. We like to throw the ball. We're never going to be a 50/50-balance team of run and pass. But you do have to be able to run the ball efficiently and effectively, especially in the second half of games when you have leads. We were unable to do that this year."

The Chargers tied for 30th in yards per attempt and finished 31st in percentage of plays that were runs.

Staley explained this week that an improved running game would help with big plays. Telesco talked about how the threat to run is necessary to maximize the effect of play-action.

Cutting Keenan?

With significantly less cap space than last offseason, the Chargers aren't in a position to be terribly active in bolstering their roster.

This time a year ago, they were about to embark on a defensive rebuild that included adding free agents such as cornerback J.C. Jackson and interior linemen Sebastian Joseph-Day and Austin Johnson.

The Chargers also traded for edge rusher Khalil Mack and, later in free agency, signed cornerback Bryce Callahan, lineman Morgan Fox and linebacker Kyle Van Noy.

One option to clear space would be cutting wide receiver Keenan Allen, who has two years left on his deal. Telesco was asked if letting Allen go was tempting given the team's cap situation.

"It's not tempting to me," he said. "I mean, good players make money. I'd rather have a lot of good players on our roster than a lot of cap space."

Tranquill coming back?

The Chargers' list of internal unrestricted free agents includes several key contributors: Callahan, Fox, Van Noy, right tackle Trey Pipkins III, linebacker Drue Tranquill, safety Nasir Adderley and wide receiver DeAndre Carter.

Last year, the Chargers allowed linebacker Kyzir White, their leading tackler, to depart in free agency. Tranquill is in a similar spot now, though, unlike White, he had the added responsibility this season of relaying signals in the huddle.

"Drue had a tremendous year, as a player, as a leader for us," Telesco said.

Pipkins impressed the Chargers throughout 2022 playing despite a knee sprain that he dealt with weekly.

"Really proud of him for a number of reasons," Telesco said.

"His development, really turning into a starting right tackle in this league. And then how he handled his injury. I mean, he is tough. He knew how much he meant to the team. He played through some things that were really difficult."

High praise for veteran corner

Telesco spoke in glowing terms of cornerback Michael Davis, who lost his starting job when the Chargers signed Jackson but returned to the lineup after Jackson suffered a season-ending knee injury.

"He got his opportunity this year and he just played lights out for us," Telesco said. "Without how we played, I don't know if we would have had 10 wins."

Telesco called Davis "a rock-solid player" and noted his mental toughness.

SPORTS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 2023 :: LATIMES.COM/SPORTS

‘Pretty good’ doesn’t cut it for Lakers

HELENE ELLIOTT

LeBron James said the Lakers have “zero room for error” after they again fumbled and stumbled down the stretch and were just good enough Wednesday to lose a close game to Sacramento.

“I thought we played pretty good basketball,” he said.

But “pretty good” didn’t get it done in their 116-111 loss to the Kings at Crypto.com Arena, their third home loss since last week, those defeats coming by a total of 10 points.

It was a too-familiar script Wednesday: a good start — a season-best first-quarter production of 39 points — lapses that put them behind, a rally that brings them close or ahead, but no final flourish to lift them over the finish line.

It has become tiresome, and it’s getting perilous as the Lakers push deeper into a tough portion of a schedule that Friday has them at home facing the Memphis Grizzlies, who have an 11-game winning streak.

Coach Darvin Ham noted the growing sense of urgency for his team, now 20-25 and still outside the top 10 and a place in the NBA’s contrived play-in tournament.

“We’ve got 37 games left to play to try to get things right,” he said. “We just can’t keep thinking, ‘OK, we can do it the first week of February or the first week of March.’ No. It has to start now. We’re gonna pick ourselves up. Refill our cups. Look at it and see what we did well and try to sustain that. And see what we didn’t do so well and try to correct that.”

The Lakers’ front office should be feeling the same sense of urgency with time growing short before the NBA trade deadline hits Feb. 9. So far, they’ve waited to gauge the market and have held on to their best chips, their 2027 and 2029 first-round draft picks. If there’s a deal that will make a significant enough

[See **Elliott,** B6]

Photographs by DARRYL WEBB Associated Press

UCLA CENTER Adem Bona grasps for the ball with both arms after it was slapped away by Arizona State’s Warren Washington.

UCLA finishes with flurry

JAIME JAQUEZ JR., right, reaches in an attempt for a steal against Arizona State’s Desmond Cambridge Jr. in the first half.

Bruins grind for most of the game but close with a 16-2 run on the Sun Devils to extend winning streak to 14.

NO. 5 UCLA 74
ARIZONA STATE 62

BY BEN BOLCH

TEMPE, Ariz. — Just keep finding a way.

That was the mandate for UCLA on Thursday night, the fifth-ranked Bruins teetering late in their Pac-12 Conference showdown with Arizona State while endangering the nation’s longest winning streak among major conference teams.

Extending the streak would sustain the midseason fun while also preventing the Sun Devils from moving into a tie atop the conference standings. It would also put UCLA halfway to a desert sweep that ESPN’s Joe Lunardi said could vault the team to a projected No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament.

Everything remained in play after the Bruins’ latest escape, a 74-62 victory at Desert Financial Arena that came courtesy of more late gutsy play.

Smothered for most of a night in which he bricked two layups and back-to-back free throws, UCLA’s Jaime Jaquez Jr. buried a three-pointer late in the shot clock to give his team a six-point lead with about 2½ minutes left. He added a turnaround jumper to extend the

[See **UCLA,** B7]

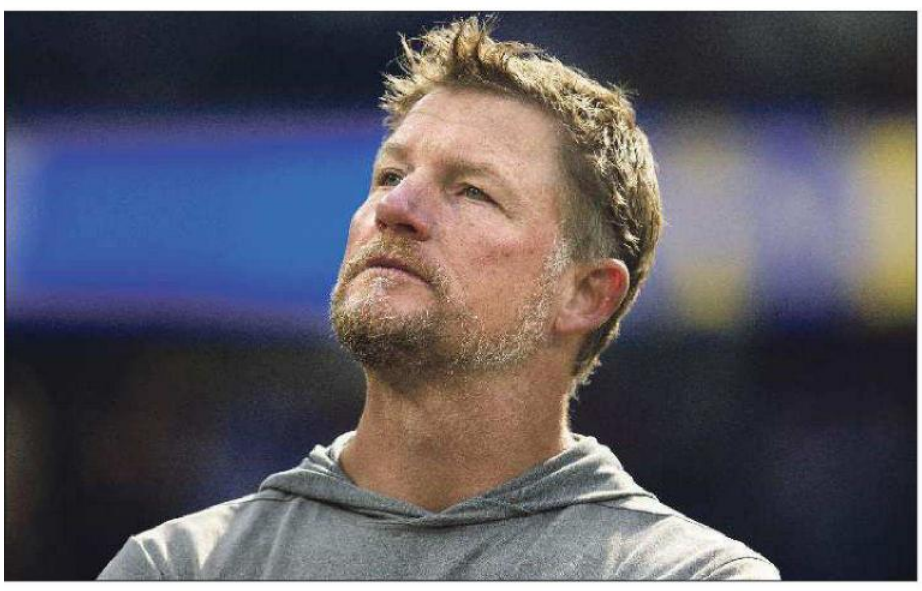
USC is no match for No. 11 Arizona

Trojans shoot 37%, lose to new-look Wildcats 81-66. **B7**

Loyola Marymount stuns No. 6 Gonzaga

Cam Shelton’s layup ends Bulldogs’ 75-game home streak. **B7**

NFL :: VIEW FROM THE FRONT OFFICE



KYUSUNG GONG Associated Press

LES SNEAD built a Super Bowl winner with the Rams, but after a 5-12 season he says, “All things are in play,” when it comes to choices in reshaping the team.

Snead not calling this a rebuild

Rams GM prefers ‘remodel’ but he also knows team must pay for its past decisions.

BY GARY KLEIN

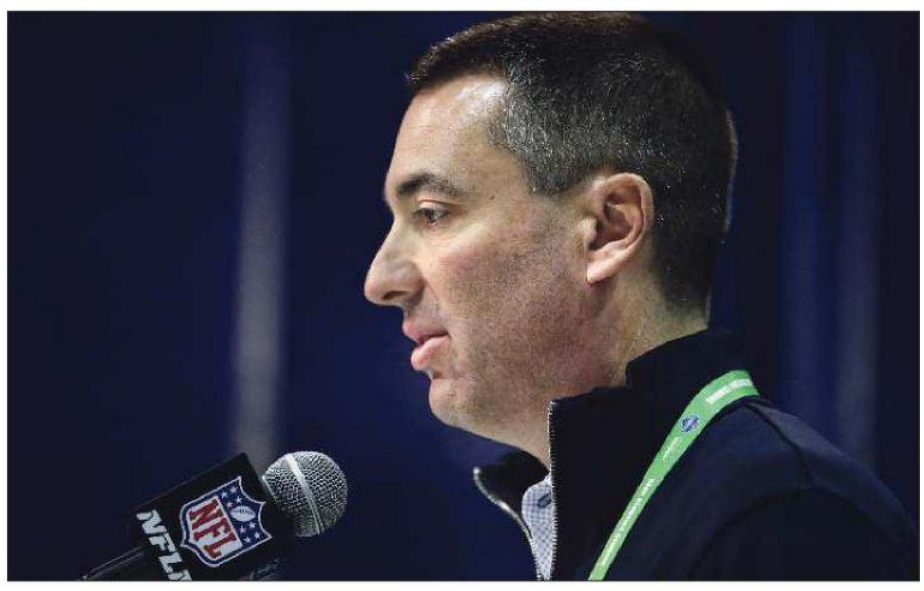
Les Snead celebrated his 52nd birthday Thursday, but the Rams general manager already had received an early present when coach Sean McVay last week informed team officials he would return next season.

So, Snead is moving ahead unencumbered as the Rams attempt to bounce back from their lost season.

A year after winning Super Bowl LVI at SoFi Stadium, the Rams finished 5-12, the worst season-after performance by a champion in NFL history.

During a videoconference with reporters, Snead said, “We did not meet our standard” and several times described his 2023 mission as a “remodel” rather than a rebuild for a team that features highly paid stars such as quarterback Matthew Stafford, receiver Cooper Kupp, defensive lineman Aaron Donald and cornerback Jalen Ramsey.

[See **Rams,** B9]



MICHAEL CONROY Associated Press

CHARGERS GENERAL MANAGER Tom Telesco’s teams have a 79-83 regular-season record and just two playoffs wins. “I’m entitled to nothing,” he says.

Herbert has voice in key search

Telesco says the star quarterback will have input when hiring Lombardi’s successor.

BY JEFF MILLER

He cited a roster filled with stars, improved depth that was on display in an injury-depleted 2022 and a coaching staff he praised for its leadership and teaching ability.

Still, Tom Telesco knows people are judging him on a record that features just two playoff victories during his decade as Chargers general manager.

“I’m entitled to nothing,” he said Thursday during his annual end-of-season news conference. “I don’t take my job for granted at all.”

Telesco, 50, is beginning his 11th year on the job, his teams going 79-83 during the regular season, the playoff wins coming in 2013 and 2018.

The Chargers earned the AFC’s top wild-card spot this season but lost Saturday night in Jacksonville 31-30.

Telesco and his staff have received high marks for building rosters with top-end talent. Depth has

[See **Chargers,** B9]

Los Angeles Times

CALENDAR

E

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 2023 :: LATIMES.COM/CALENDAR

A HARSH LIGHT FALLS ON ALEC BALDWIN

Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office via AP

BALDWIN speaks with detectives in October 2021, on the day Halyna Hutchins was killed on the set of the western film "Rust."

The '30 Rock' actor's career may take more damage as he faces criminal charges in the shooting of Halyna Hutchins

By Josh Rottenberg

With the announcement Thursday that criminal charges will be filed in the accidental shooting in 2021 of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins on the set of the western "Rust," Alec Baldwin is likely to see his already damaged career erode even further.

Baldwin, who starred in the yet-to-be-completed "Rust" and was one of its producers, will be charged by New Mexico prosecutors with two counts of involuntary manslaughter for his role in the fatality. Baldwin shot Hutchins in the chest on Oct. 21, 2021, while rehearsing a scene with her and the film's director, Joel Souza, who was wounded.

In a statement following the announcement, an attorney for Baldwin, Luke Nikas, said, "This decision distorts Halyna Hutchins' tragic death and represents a terrible miscarriage of justice. Mr. Baldwin had no reason to believe there was a live bullet in the gun — or anywhere on the movie set. He relied on the professionals with whom he worked, who assured him the gun did not have live rounds. We will fight these charges, and we will win."

Even before the "Rust" shooting, Baldwin — long considered one of Hollywood's most versatile stars — had seen his career cool in the decade since he ended

[See **'Rust,'** E3]

New Mexico prosecutors 'wrestled' with their decision but say the need for justice pushed them forward

By Anousha Sakoui and Meg James

New Mexico prosecutors acknowledged Thursday that they struggled over whether to charge actor Alec Baldwin and weapons handler Hannah Gutierrez Reed with involuntary manslaughter, a felony, but said they felt an obligation to the slain cinematographer Halyna Hutchins.

"To be very honest, we wrestled with charging anyone," New Mexico's 1st Judicial Dist. Atty. Mary Carmack-Altwies said in an interview with the Los Angeles Times. "This is a very complicated case [and] there were three people that we believe were potentially culpable for firing the weapon."

Those three — Baldwin, Gutierrez Reed and David Halls, the assistant director — all faced felony charges in the death of Hutchins, she said.

But Halls, who was the on-set safety coordinator, cooperated with prosecutors and accepted a plea for a misdemeanor charge — negligent use of a firearm.

Carmack-Altwies said Baldwin and Gutierrez Reed will be formally charged by the end of January. Should the case go to trial, a jury will decide whether jail time is warranted.

Attorneys for Baldwin and Gutierrez Reed said the charges were baseless and that their clients were not guilty of involuntary manslaughter.

[See **Prosecutors,** E3]

SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL

Early list of to-see titles

Screenings have just begun, but here are 6 that I saw in advance and can recommend.

JUSTIN CHANG
FILM CRITIC

Three years have passed since some of us last set foot in Park City, Utah, where the Sundance Film Festival has been on COVID-mandated hiatus — at least as an in-person event — since January 2020. Not that the festival has exactly hibernated in the meantime: In 2021 and 2022, digital screenings and panel discussions helped sustain this annual event and its movie-hungry audiences. One of those pandemic-impacted editions even produced the first Sundance-premiered title ("CODA") to win the Oscar for best picture.

Even so, what a bummer. Anyone who's ever trudged through the snow from screening to screening — or slipped on black ice mid-transit — knows that there is no experiential substitute, virtual or otherwise, for a festival as physically immersive and meteorologically unforgiving as this one. And so it's a thrill to return to Sundance this year, masks and vitamin C tablets at the ready. Will it be a good, bad or average festival? Time will tell. The overall quality of the movies at Sundance, as at any festival, can vary from year to year, but any movie projected on a big screen stands a better chance of being a more indelible, more affecting and more lasting experience.

The six movies I'm recommending below are among just a small number of features I was able to see in advance. I'm looking forward to seeing (and thinking and writing about) much more in the days to come, but these already persist in my memory — and, if you seek them out in Park City or beyond, I hope they will also persist in yours.

[See **Watchlist,** E2]

Reiner Bajo

BAFTA noms announced

"All Quiet on the Western Front," above, leads British film academy's field with 14 nods. **E6**

Too much for one series

Crime anthology "Accused" takes on complex issues but fails to adequately explore them. **E2**

Jesse Eisenberg behind camera

His first work as a writer and director, "When You Finish Saving the World," feels unfinished. **E3**

Comics **E8-9**
Puzzles **E8**

Grant to put California on the 'culture map'

A nonprofit's project preserved history of pre-gentrified Santa Monica. Now, it's expanding statewide.

By Deborah Vankin

Marc Walker 18th Street Arts Center

"THREE Structures Touching," 2021, by Maj Hasager, displayed at the nonprofit.

For the last eight years, the Santa Monica-based nonprofit 18th Street Arts Center has produced its Culture Mapping 90404 project. The community-led, interactive digital map highlights the cultural history of Santa Monica's Pico neighborhood. The emphasis is on pre-gentrification, before the area was overrun with luxury homes and high-end grocery stores offering gourmet macrobiotic bowls. The project aims to highlight, interpret and archive past and present "cultural assets" — individuals, locations, organizations and events — that make up the area.

The map's footprint — and the communities it will support — just got a whole lot bigger.

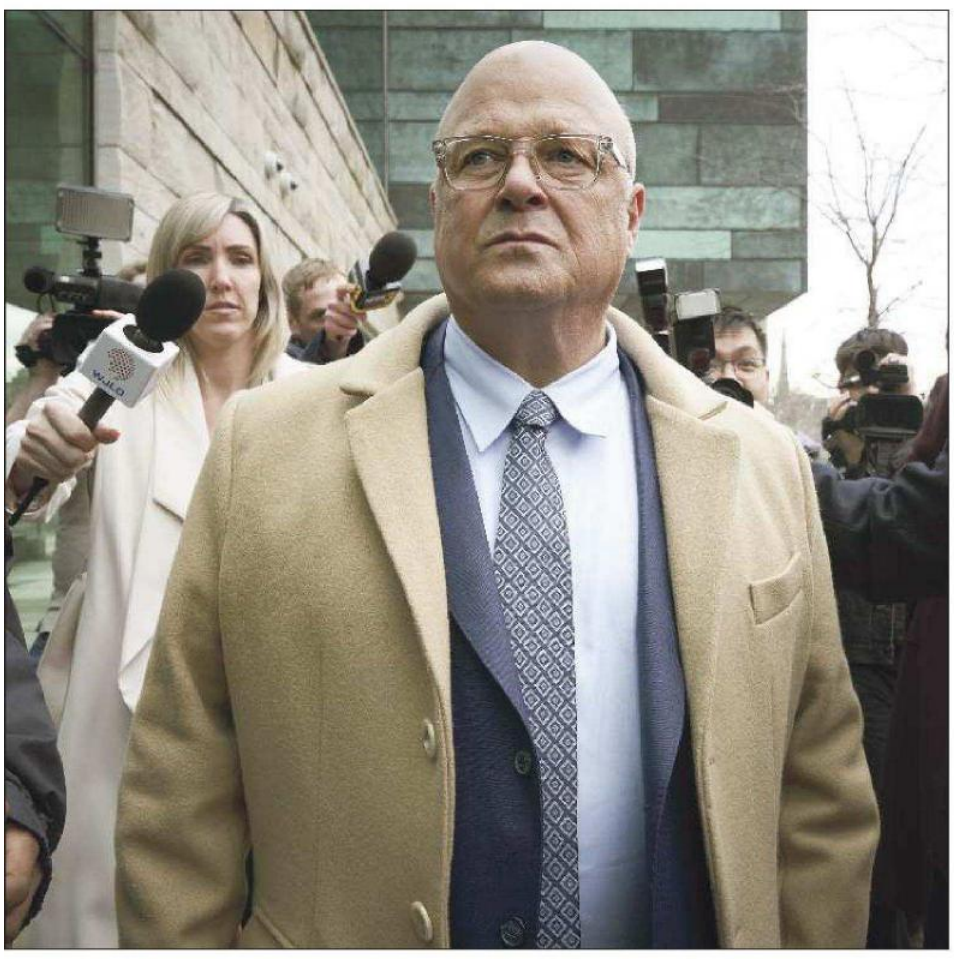
18th Street Arts Center has been awarded a $3.3-million California Creative Corps grant from the California Arts Council to expand the project statewide. The new project will employ artists and "culture bearers" — meaning individuals who engage in cultural practices — across the Golden State to create community-led cultural mapping projects that "foster well-being, social cohesion and cultural infrastructure."

18th Street Arts Center is the longest-running artist residency in Southern California. Its current mapping project includes a companion website that features oral histories and photography documenting, in English and Spanish, more than 150 "cultural treasures" in the area. One of them is the Quinn Research Center, an archive documenting Black culture and history in Santa Monica and Venice; another is an interview with longtime 90404 resident and activist Ruth Alonzo, conducted by her son Daniel Alonzo, an artist.

18th Street Arts Center has also commissioned artists to create works informed and inspired by the project. That has included performances, exhibitions, murals and public art, a film, walking tours and a local artisan collective.

Arts and culture is the foundation of a community's health and well-being, says 18th Street Executive Director Jan Williamson. So ex-

[See **Map,** E2]



STEVE WILKIE Fox

MICHAEL CHIKLIS plays a concerned dad in the series premiere of "Accused."

TELEVISION REVIEW

No time for nuance in crime anthology series

Despite an all-star cast, 'Accused' can't adequately explore complex questions due to its format.

LORRAINE ALI
TELEVISION CRITIC

What would you do if you suspected your teenager was a deadly threat to the students and staff at his school? Would you take the law into your own hands if your young daughter was sexually assaulted and the assailant hadn't been apprehended yet? What if a newborn's parents appeared unfit — would you be justified in kidnapping the baby?

These questions and more are posed in Fox's episodic anthology "Accused," an anticipated addition to television's plethora of courtroom dramas and crime stories true and false. The hourlong series, which is more crime than courtroom, features an all-star cast and an impressive list of names among its directors. But it's not enough to help "Accused" overcome a number of obstacles, just one of which is the confining nature of the show's central structure. Each stand-alone installment focuses on one protagonist as they await their verdict in court. Then, in a series of flashbacks, it revisits the events that led up to their arrest and trial, and looks at the butterfly effect their crime has had on the people around them. As the narrative unfolds, the viewer is meant to ponder whether the main character is guilty, innocent or justified in their actions.

But there's a fundamental problem in trying to tackle topical, complex questions, rooted in moral and ethical ambiguities, within a format that calls for brevity. There's simply not enough time here to unpack the individual stories, so much of "Accused" feels underexplored, even outright rushed. Tales that call for nuance instead rely on shorthand to quickly construct a narrative. For example, a music producer and new father is devastated upon learning that his baby is hearing-impaired in "Ava's Story." How do we know this? Because he refers to abortion as a missed opportunity, refuses to hold the baby and says he wants her to hear what he hears. But there isn't the time or space to convincingly establish him as a conflicted soul or a threat to the child, so the ensuing drama around the infant doesn't have the impact that it should. Shallow wading near deep water is a recurring problem throughout the series, resulting in an unsatisfying drama that doesn't do much to advance or degrade the well-worn genres it borrows from.

Another issue with "Accused" is that the only common thread between the five episodes made available for review is simply that the main character winds up in court for a crime that they may or may not have committed. Some of the stories are about sacrifice, others are about deceit, while others still demystify marginalized communities. The series feels cobbled together from stray scenarios and commentary, rather than building to a broader point about culpability and the criminal justice system.

It's a shame, because the series boasts an impressive cast of actors and creative minds. Developed by Howard Gordon ("Homeland," "24") and based on an award-winning BBC series by Jimmy McGovern ("Cracker"), each episode is brought to life by a different team of writers, directors and actors.

Marlee Matlin directs "Ava's Story," where a deaf surrogate birth mother (Stephanie Nogueras) kidnaps the baby she's been paid to carry after she decides it's in the child's best interest. Billy Porter directs "Robyn's Story," about a drag queen (J. Harrison Ghee) who reluctantly falls for a closeted man (Chris Coy).

In Sunday's series premiere, "Scott's Story," a concerned father (Michael Chiklis) sees troubling signs in the behavior of his detached, angry teenage son (Oakes Fegley). How far should he go to protect society from this imminent threat? Malcolm-Jamal Warner and Wendell Pierce star in "Kendall's Story," about a father seeking revenge for a sexual assault on his daughter. And in "Billy's Story," Keith Carradine is an aging rock star dealing with his son's drug addiction.

It's rare to find truly meaningful portrayals of the wrongly accused on scripted TV, which is why HBO's "The Night Of" was such a masterpiece, and it's always risky covering the gray area between what's right, what's necessary and what's permissible under the law.

"Accused" sets out to tell all its characters' stories with the sort of detail they deserve, but ultimately it falls short. Though crime and punishment is the overarching theme, human intricacy is the true victim here.

'Accused'

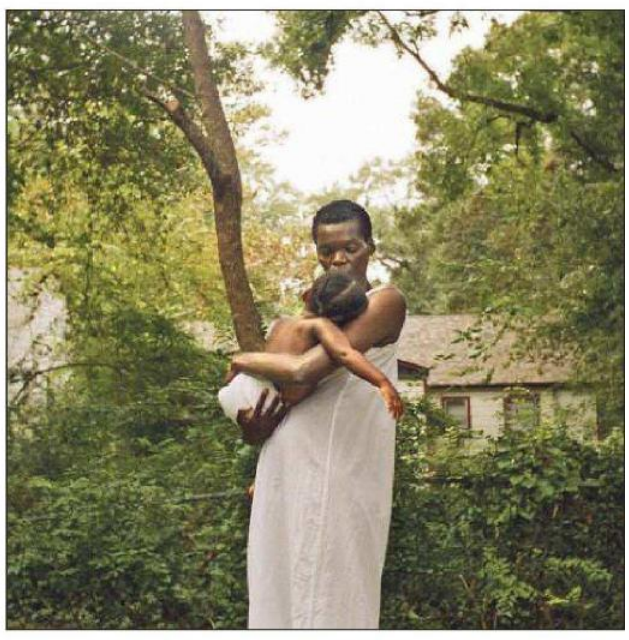
Where: Fox
When: Premieres 10 p.m. Sunday, then 9 p.m. Tuesdays
Streaming: Fox Now anytime starting Sunday
Rating: TV-14 (may be unsuitable for children under the age of 14)

Early Sundance viewing picks

[**Watchlist,** from E1]

'All Dirt Roads Taste of Salt'

I'm already looking forward to another viewing of Raven Jackson's exquisitely tactile first feature, which unspools as an accretion of multigenerational moments from the life of a Black woman in Mississippi. These moments are arranged in a mosaic whose intricate, time-shuffling construction reveals itself piece by piece, though there's a case for simply letting it wash over you, like a piece of poetry or music, and allowing past, present and future to merge into a kind of eternal now. (U.S. dramatic competition)

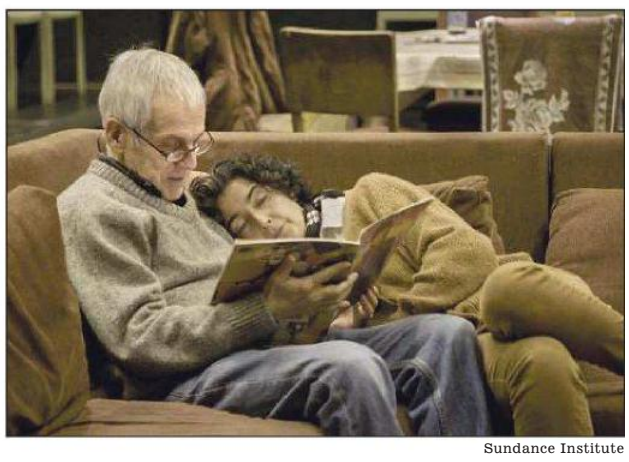


JACLYN MARTINEZ Sundance Institute

A MULTIGENERATIONAL tale unfolds in "All Dirt Roads Taste of Salt" from director Raven Jackson.

'Aum: The Cult at the End of the World'

Dramas and documentaries about dangerous cults are something of a staple at Sundance, which has premiered movies as different as "Martha Marcy May Marlene," "Going Clear: Scientology and the Prison of Belief" and "Prophet's Prey." The latest nonfiction entry in this vein, from debuting directors Ben Braun and Chiaki Yanagimoto, chillingly recounts the activities of Aum Shinrikyo, the group behind the deadly 1995 sarin nerve-gas attacks in Tokyo. That tragedy would never have happened had Aum and its leader, Shoko Asahara, not gained such an insidious psychological foothold in Japanese society, though as the movie disturbingly argues, the cult mindset knows no cultural or geographical boundaries. (U.S. documentary competition)



Sundance Institute

"THE ETERNAL Memory" documents Alzheimer's with Augusto Gongora and his wife, Paulina Urrutia.

Sundance Institute

THE POWER of a water spirit charges the feature film "Mami Wata" from director C.J. "Fiery" Obasi.

'The Eternal Memory'

Chilean filmmaker Maite Alberdi charmed audiences at Sundance 2020 with "The Mole Agent," her sly, seriocomic documentary about suspicious goings-on at a Santiago nursing home. She returns to the festival three years later with another moving and intimate portrait of caretaking in action, this one told from the perspective of the veteran journalist Augusto Góngora and his wife, Paulina, as they navigate his battle with Alzheimer's disease. (World cinema documentary competition)

'Mami Wata'

If you saw last year's spine-tingling Sundance prizewinner "Nanny," you might recall the figure of an African water spirit called Mami Wata. The Nigerian writer-director C.J. "Fiery" Obasi pulls off his own striking interpretation of that mythology in this drama, set in a coastal village that comes under threat from within and also from without. Shot in high-contrast black-and-white and replete with action and intrigue, it looks and sounds like no other movie you're likely to see at Sundance this year. (World cinema dramatic competition)

'Pianoforte'

This former classical piano student was neither talented nor dedicated enough to come within spitting distance of the International Chopin Piano Competition, a prestigious once-every-five-years event that attracts etude enthusiasts and nocturne naturals from all over the world. Still, for anyone who's ever attempted to master a musical instrument, Jakub Piatek's tense and touching documentary — which follows a handful of prodigiously gifted young contenders as they advance (or not) in the 2021 competition — will surely bring some of your sweaty-palmed memories flooding back. (World cinema documentary competition)

'A Thousand and One'

The story of a woman and her son trying to survive and stay together in mid-1990s New York, where every day is a struggle against poverty, prejudice and encroaching gentrification, might sound like a minefield of hard-scrabble coming-of-age clichés. But A.V. Rockwell's absorbing debut feature has more than its share of surprises; it also has a fine principal cast led by Teyana Taylor as a mother who, for all her frustration and fury, has the strength to keep her eyes on a prize no one else can see. (U.S. dramatic competition)

Scaling up the state's culture map

[**Map,** from E1]

panding the Culture Mapping project's reach is especially important.

"The opportunity for 18th Street Arts Center to support [multiple] communities, by seeding a project, is very exciting," Williamson says. "Because from our own experience in Santa Monica, we've seen how the community, as a whole, embraces the Culture Map towards multiple community policies and programs. We believe that will happen in these other communities once it gets started — it's a kind of snowball and with the right intersection of community partners and artists, the snowball continues to grow."

18th Street Arts Center will put out a call for applicants on Jan. 19. The center will invite applications, which will be free, from California practitioners of craft, design, dance, film, literary arts, oral tradition, interdisciplinary arts and other "culture keepers." The 18th Street Arts Center says it is making a special effort to reach out to Indigenous California communities.

Forty participants will be chosen by regional panels through a statewide RFP (request for proposal). Participants, announced in mid-March, will be given a $1,000 stipend as well as professional coaching to realize a project proposal with a budget. The Atwater-based Clockshop will help the 40 participants craft their project proposals.

Of the 40 participants, 18 will be chosen by one statewide panel to receive a $65,000 salary with health benefits for one year. Their projects will also be fully funded, not to exceed $50,000 per project. These final participants — from 18 different California ZIP Codes — will be announced in May.

Applicants for both rounds must be living or working in California and their projects must be in a "quartile one" ZIP Code of the Healthy Places Index, which maps social conditions that drive health and well-being and which is produced by the Public Health Alliance of Southern California. Quartile one ZIP Codes score lower — between zero and 25% — in metrics of health and well-being on a scale of one to 100. There are several quartile one regions across California.

"Eight years of sustained collaboration with municipal partners (library, parks, housing, schools), research and evaluation partners (USC, Rand Corporation) and community groups representing the concerns of local Hispanic, Black, and Asian families," 18th Street Arts Center says of the current Culture Mapping project, "allowed us to elevate under-recognized community treasures by pairing them with experienced artists to create community-relevant artworks. Through this, 18SAC has produced over 60 projects with artists and graduate students that address community concerns and wellbeing in Santa Monica."

Expansion is the next logical, if ambitious, step.

"Scaling our experience with culture mapping to multiple communities across the state," it adds, "along with our wraparound communications, evaluation, and training will anchor new infrastructure in each town, upon which they can build novel well-being initiatives with more local artists into the future."

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THE SON PG-13 1:00 4:00 7:00
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NO BEARS 1:30 4:30 7:20

MONICA — 1332 Second Street — Santa Monica
CHESS STORY 1:10 7:20
SAINT OMER PG-13 4:00 PM
BROKER R 1:00 PM
CORSAGE 4:20 PM
THE FABELMANS PG-13 1:10 6:50
EO 4:30 PM
TRIANGLE OF SADNESS R 6:50 PM
TÁR R 1:00 3:50 6:45
FLYING BOAT 1:00 3:05 5:10 7:30
IMMACULATE 1:20 4:10 7:10

TOWN CENTER — 17200 Ventura Blvd. — Encino
THE SON PG-13 1:10 4:10 7:20
A MAN CALLED OTTO PG-13 1:00 4:10 7:10
BROKER R 4:00 PM
LIVING PG-13 1:30 4:30 7:30
NO BEARS 1:20 4:20 7:10
THE FABELMANS PG-13 1:00 7:00

NEWHALL — 22500 Lyons Ave. — Santa Clarita
MISSING PG-13 1:10 4:20 7:20
THE SON PG-13 4:20 PM
A MAN CALLED OTTO PG-13 1:00 4:00 7:00
PLANE R 1:20 4:10 7:20
M3GAN PG-13 1:30 4:30 7:30
PUSS IN BOOTS: THE LAST WISH PG 1:30 4:30 7:10
AVATAR: THE WAY OF WATER PG-13 1:20 6:30
THE WHALE R 7:10 PM
THE FABELMANS PG-13 1:00 PM

GLENDALE — 207 N. Maryland Ave — Glendale
NEW GODS: YANG JIAN SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH; 1:20 4:15 7:15 10:10
THE SON PG-13 1:10 4:10 7:10
BEAUTIFUL BEINGS SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH; 1:00 10:15
SKINAMARINK 10:15 PM
BROKER R SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH; 4:00 PM
CORSAGE 4:20 PM
LIVING PG-13 1:30 7:20
ALL THE BEAUTY AND THE BLOODSHED 1:00 PM
EO SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH; 7:30 PM
HOLY SPIDER SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH; 10:00 PM
DECISION TO LEAVE SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH; 6:55 PM
TRIANGLE OF SADNESS R 3:40 10:00

NoHo 7 — 5240 Lankershim Blvd. — No. Hollywood
IN FROM THE SIDE 12:55 7:00
THE SON PG-13 1:00 4:15
WOMEN TALKING PG-13 1:20 4:20 7:20
PLANE R 1:20 4:10 7:15
SAINT OMER PG-13 4:00 PM
SKINAMARINK 7:30 PM
M3GAN PG-13 1:30 4:30 7:30
THE WHALE R 1:10 4:10 7:10
THE FABELMANS PG-13 1:00 4:00 6:55

CLAREMONT — 450 W. 2nd Street — Claremont
THE SON PG-13 1:00 4:10 7:10
A MAN CALLED OTTO PG-13 1:00 4:10 7:10
SAINT OMER PG-13 4:00 PM
BROKER R 4:00 PM
NO BEARS 1:15 7:30
PUSS IN BOOTS: THE LAST WISH PG 1:30 4:30 7:20
THE WHALE R 1:10 7:00

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MOVIE REVIEW

Stuck between social satire and sensitive indie

Jesse Eisenberg's writer-director debut feels unfinished but has its moments.

By Robert Abele

Seventeen years after playing the mixed-up teenager to a deluded parent in a fragile family for Noah Baumbach in "The Squid and the Whale," Jesse Eisenberg has crafted his own comically pointed version of this neurotic ecosystem with his feature writing-directing debut, "When You Finish Saving the World."

Adapting a scenario from a podcast drama of the same name that he wrote for Audible, which ran during the pandemic, Eisenberg takes us inside the sardonic, snappish relationship between an activist mother (Julianne Moore) and her personally ambitious son (Finn Wolfhard), neither of whom can hide their disappointment in each other when they cross paths under the same roof. (Rounding out this tense home is Jay O. Sanders as the go-along-to-get-along dad who, at one point, calls his housemates in a moment of understandable frustration "a couple of narcissists.")

Wolfhard's lanky high-schooler Ziggy is laser-focused on his internet fame as a singer-songwriter of plaintive, teen-sappy folk-rock tunes that he livestreams from his bedroom to adoring fans. The irony, of course, befitting his social media-driven existence is that for someone with 20,000 followers from all over the world — information he's quick to drop on anyone he meets — local popularity remains nonexistent. That's probably because Ziggy's self-absorbed neediness in the everyday is as noticeable as the guitar case always with him.

His mother Evelyn (Moore), meanwhile, patiently devotes her days to running a domestic violence shelter she founded, but carries a brittle, joyless office demeanor that leads one staffer to respond to her forced-smile small talk with a nervous, "Are you firing me?" Evelyn's own connected-but-lonely dilemma — she's oblivious to realize her son is dealing with this too — is that for all that's rewarding in what she does for the women in her care, Ziggy's is the life she can't shake feeling is a failed project. How did the son she took to marches and taught protest songs become a shallow website busker?

Eisenberg's comic sensibility — not terribly far off from Baumbach's, which itself owed something to Woody Allen — is to give Ziggy and Evelyn parallel obsessions of amusing cringeworthiness that reflect how blind they are to needing each other.

Ziggy burns to impress a poetry-writing, incandescently smart social-justice-warrior classmate (Alisha Boe), an Oedipal-adjacent crush project that requires an interest in politics he'd rather shortcut to exploit than think of as a hole in his learning.

And when Evelyn meets Kyle (Billy Bryk), the thoughtful, working-class teenage son of one of the shelter's newest boarders, a surrogate mothering opportunity bubbles to the surface that, in its overreach, she's helpless to suppress.

As these scenarios play out, though, in the cool autumn grain of Benjamin Loeb's 16mm cinematography and over an Emile Mosseri score that fills the non-diegetic holes between Ziggy's songs and Evelyn's calming classical with wheezing electronic-sounding motifs, the wincingly funny competes awkwardly with the emotional framework. It's a problem Eisenberg will inevitably get better at the more he writes and directs movies with these types of thematically complicated characters. But for now it feels like a story caught between the punishing bite of social satire and a sensitive indie.

The actors help, to a point. Wolfhard, working a fine switch-up from his "Stranger Things" duties, and the reliably intense Moore are entertainingly severe when it comes to the squirmier comedy — with Wolfhard's timing in moments acutely reminiscent of his writer-director's more memorable portraits of narrow-minded arrogance. Neither he nor Moore are given a lot of opportunity, however, to seed the subterranean stuff ultimately required to sell Eisenberg's epiphany gear-shift at the end.

As a micro case study about some acutely flawed 21st century strivers, "When You Finish Saving the World" has its well-turned moments, but when you want it to be gloriously messy about families and human interactions, it stays resolutely in lab mode.

Beth Garrabrant A24

FINN WOLFHARD, left, and Julianne Moore star in the film dramedy "When You Finish Saving the World."

'When You Finish Saving the World'

Rated: R, for language
Running time: 1 hour, 28 minutes
Playing: Alamo Drafthouse, downtown Los Angeles

For your safety

The Times is committed to covering indoor arts and entertainment events during the COVID-19 pandemic. Because attending carries risks during this time, we remind readers to follow health and safety guidelines as outlined by the CDC and local health officials.

N.M. prosecutors discuss their goals

[**Prosecutors,** from E1]

Many in Hollywood felt that Baldwin would escape serious charges. They argued that he was the actor on the set, not the weapons expert. Baldwin himself said in several interviews that he was relying on professionals — Gutierrez Reed and Halls — to do their jobs. The film's director, Joel Souza, was also injured in the Oct. 21, 2021, shooting.

Baldwin's celebrity didn't spare him from the manslaughter charges — one which carries a mandatory five-year sentence, should he be convicted.

"We have a belief that everybody should be equally held accountable under the law," said veteran prosecutor Andrea Reeb, who was tapped last summer as the special prosecutor.

Reeb, a Republican, retired from her role as district attorney and was elected as a representative in New Mexico's legislature, representing the 64th District, in November. Carmack-Altwies is a Democratic district attorney in Santa Fe.

The following interview with Carmack-Altwies and Reeb has been edited for brevity and clarity.

Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office

ALEC Baldwin speaks to investigators in video released by Santa Fe authorities.

New Mexico 1st Judicial District Attorney

"RUST" case special prosecutor Andrea Reeb.

Kate Russell

MARY Carmack-Altwies, Santa Fe area D.A.

Baldwin has maintained that he relied on other professionals to do their jobs and check the gun. Why did you charge him?

Carmack-Altwies: He absolutely had a duty to either check the weapon himself or have someone to check in front of him. We've spoken with several actors, A-list and less than A-list, and all have confirmed that when you are handed a gun, you need to look at it and make sure that it's safe.

Not only that, but just when anyone is handed a gun you need to make sure that you are not pointing it or pulling the trigger at anyone or anything that you're not willing to shoot. He didn't take those basic safety recommendations and procedures and protocols into account. We had to wrestle with the law and what our case law says here in New Mexico.

This case involves a Hollywood A-list star. How did that factor into your decisions?

Reeb: Whether you're an A-list actor [or not], our goal here is to treat everybody equally, and to get justice for the victim, Halyna Hutchins, and also to really look at these film sets in New Mexico. Are they safe? And are things being done right? And clearly, they weren't on this [film]. This tragedy could have been avoided very easily. But no, as far as being an A-list actor and having notoriety or popularity, he is just another defendant to us under the law.

The assistant director Dave Halls accepted a plea deal. How did that come about?

Carmack-Altwies: Dave Halls approached us and was cooperative with our investigation. When he came in we had a very frank and honest discussion. We felt like ... he was still culpable, but he was the least culpable. ... As part of his plea deal, he will be testifying or cooperating with the prosecution.

There is still the outstanding question of how did the live bullets get on set. Does not knowing the answer weaken your case?

Reeb: Everybody seems to want to know where the live rounds came from, and we've definitely interviewed everybody trying to answer that question. But when it came down to whether it really matters, I mean, there were six live rounds found in various places on this movie set, which is obviously very concerning.

> 'We have a belief that everybody should be equally held accountable under the law.'
>
> — Andrea Reeb, veteran prosecutor

But the armorer should have caught those live rounds on set and so our bigger concern is why didn't Hannah Gutierrez Reed catch these live rounds on set — not so much on how they got on there. That may be a question that never gets answered.

No one here intended to cause harm. So how do you square that with these charges?

Reeb: We're in no way saying this is an intentional homicide or act. We have [in New Mexico] involuntary manslaughter, which is a different standard. ... And so that's the standard we have to get to in order to prove his case.

Carmack-Altwies: Everyone agrees that this was accidental, but it was recklessly accidental. Somebody should have caught this and they didn't and that's where the criminality comes in.

This case is so high-profile. How have you managed to deal with the publicity and attention?

Carmack-Altwies: It was a surprise to me when this happened, and it was not something I expected to happen in my first time as district attorney. But what I really focused on is getting justice for Halyna Hutchins and treating everyone equally under the law. And so I tried to put everything else outside of my vision. That's not what matters.

Did politics play a part in your decision?

Reeb: I was elected district attorney since 2014. I just retired last year. So the D.A. and I knew each other and she knew my work and we've talked about this case prior to me even deciding to run for election. So there's really no politics in it. I'm still a prosecutor.

It comes back to what I care about, whether to bring justice to our victims in this case, and also really look at these film sets and make sure that we have adequate safety measures so that this type of thing doesn't happen.

What's next for Baldwin?

[**'Rust,'** from E1]

his run on the NBC sitcom "30 Rock," which earned him two Emmy Awards for his performance as smooth-talking network executive Jack Donaghy.

In April 2021, months before "Rust" began production, ABC scrapped a sitcom that would have co-starred Baldwin and Kelsey Grammer as estranged former roommates after the pilot episode was completed.

With the kinds of meaty roles in major Hollywood productions he'd once enjoyed in films like "Beetlejuice," "The Hunt for Red October" and "Glengarry Glen Ross" largely a thing of the past, Baldwin had co-written the low-budget "Rust" and cast himself in the lead as an aging outlaw as a way to help rejuvenate his flagging acting career.

After the shooting, Baldwin drew criticism for blaming others on the "Rust" set for the accident. "Someone is responsible ... but I know it's not me," Baldwin told ABC News in December 2021 — further battering a public reputation that had already weathered years of controversies.

As his troubles mounted, Baldwin found himself dropped from several planned projects, including the lead role in a spy thriller called "Chief of Station." "I got fired from another job yesterday," the actor told CNN in an interview in August, noting he had lost five roles since the shooting. "There I was all set to go to a movie, jump on a plane.... I've been talking with these guys for months and they told me yesterday, 'We don't want to do the film with you because of this.' "

But while major studios and networks have kept their distance from the embattled actor — who earned an Oscar nod in 2004 for the film "The Cooler" and has won three Emmys for his work on "30 Rock" and "Saturday Night Live" — Baldwin has continued to find work, albeit sporadically, in low-budget fare.

Months after the shooting, Baldwin traveled to the U.K. to film the action-thriller "97 Minutes," executive produced by "Rust" producer Anjul Nigam. Last year, Baldwin and Nigam launched a new production banner, Persona Entertainment; its first project, the psychological thriller "False Awakening," is set to star Baldwin as a psychologist trying to help a client who is sleepwalking.

Baldwin also has a handful of projects in the can, including the tornado disaster film "Supercell" — produced by "Rust" production company Thomasville Pictures — and two animated family films, "Kid Santa" and "Billie's Magic World." Meanwhile, away from the screen, Baldwin has continued to host his weekly arts and politics podcast, "Here's the Thing."

In October, Hutchins' family reached an undisclosed settlement with Baldwin in a wrongful-death suit. As part of the settlement, filming on "Rust" is supposed to resume this year with the cinematographer's husband, Matthew Hutchins, as executive producer. But the decision to finish the film has been controversial, and the charges against Baldwin will probably complicate the production schedule.

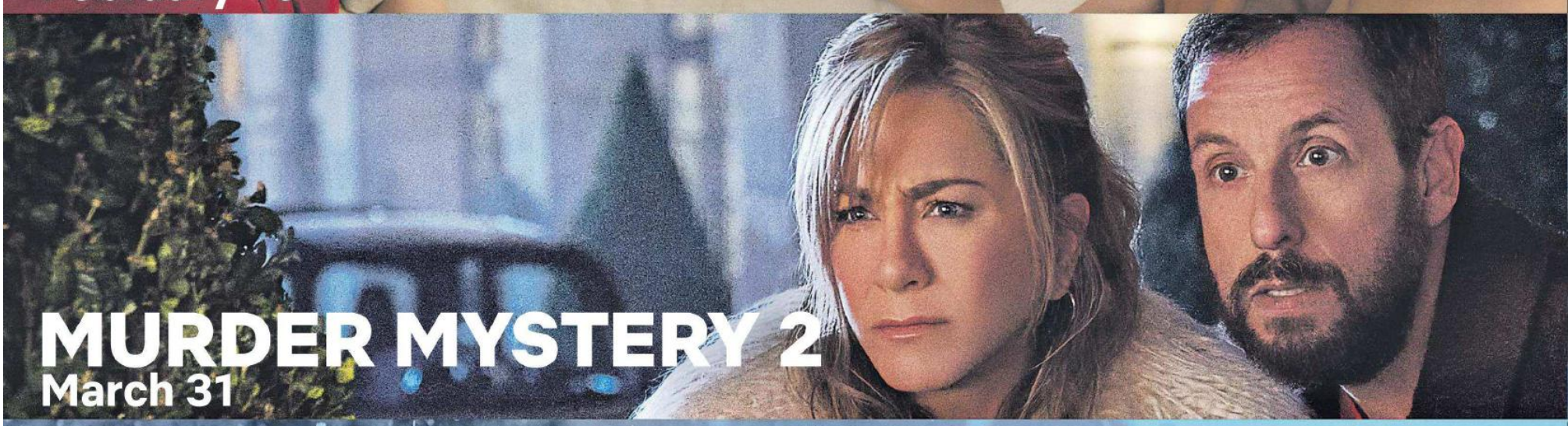
At age 64, Baldwin already likely faced dwindling career prospects. But with the announcement of criminal charges, which could be punishable with a mandatory five years in jail if Baldwin is found guilty, the actor could find it difficult to get cast in anything. Actress Felicity Huffman, who pleaded guilty to federal charges in 2019 stemming from the Varsity Blues college admissions scandal, has not appeared onscreen since, and many in Hollywood are unlikely to want to be associated with an actor who's been implicated in a far graver matter that has received massive global attention.

> 'Mr. Baldwin had no reason to believe there was a live bullet in the gun — or anywhere on the movie set.'
>
> — Luke Nikas, attorney for Baldwin

Speaking to CNN in August, Baldwin, who had publicly contemplated retiring from acting after his run on "30 Rock" ended in 2013, said that it was only owing to the encouragement of his wife, Hilaria, that he was persevering at all.

"If I didn't have her, I probably would have quit, retired, gone off, sold everything I owned, got a house in the middle of nowhere," he said. "Just find something else to do, sell real estate."

YOUR PLACE OR MINE
February 10


MURDER MYSTERY 2
March 31

EXTRACTION 2
June 16

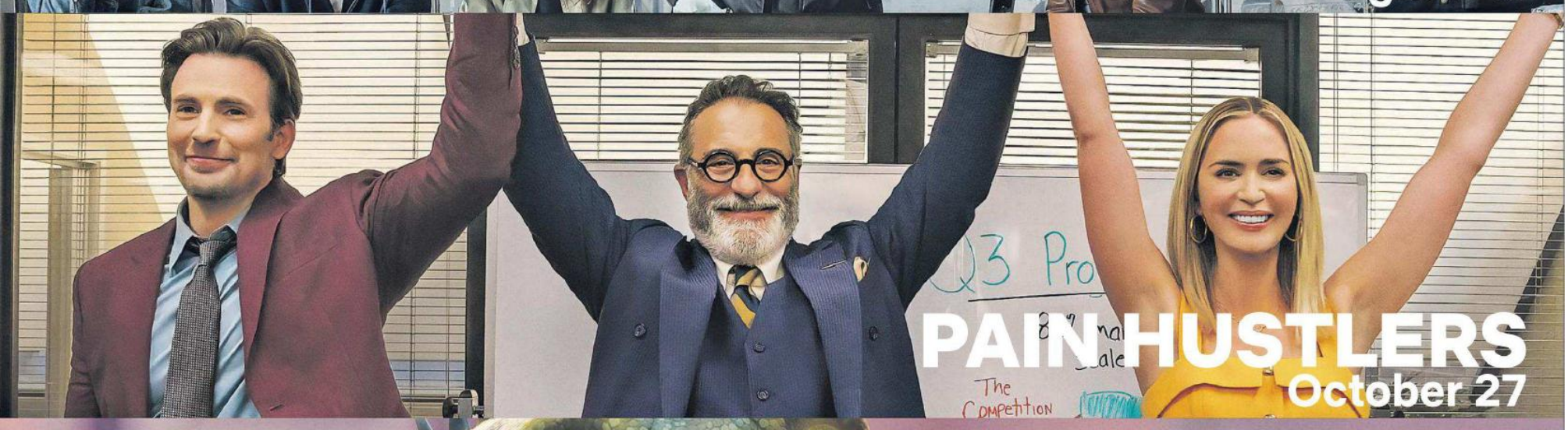
HEART OF STONE
August 11

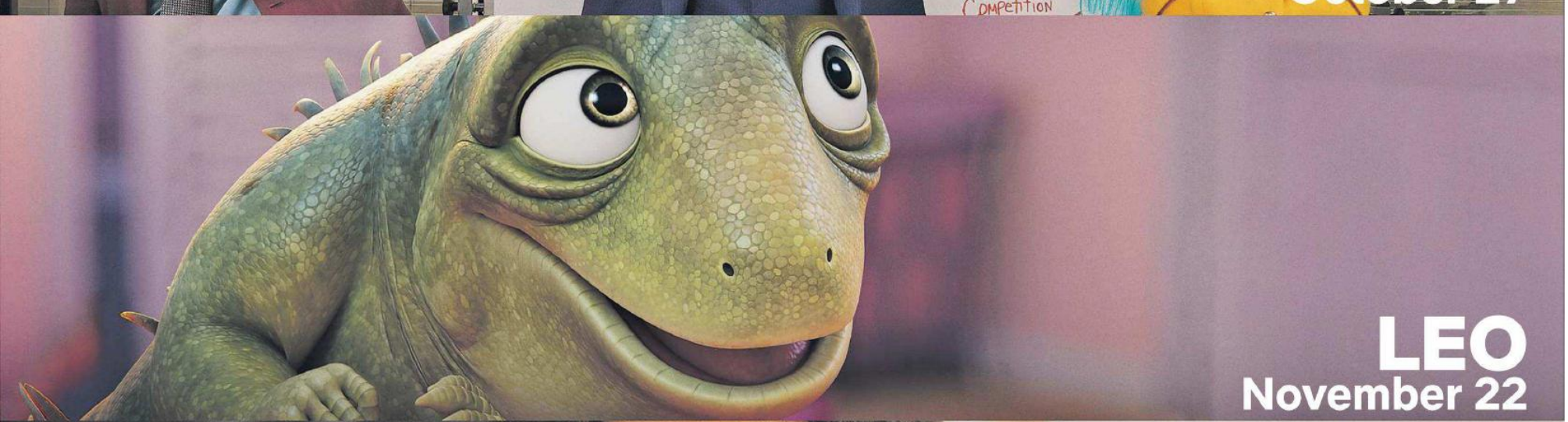
DAMSEL
October 13

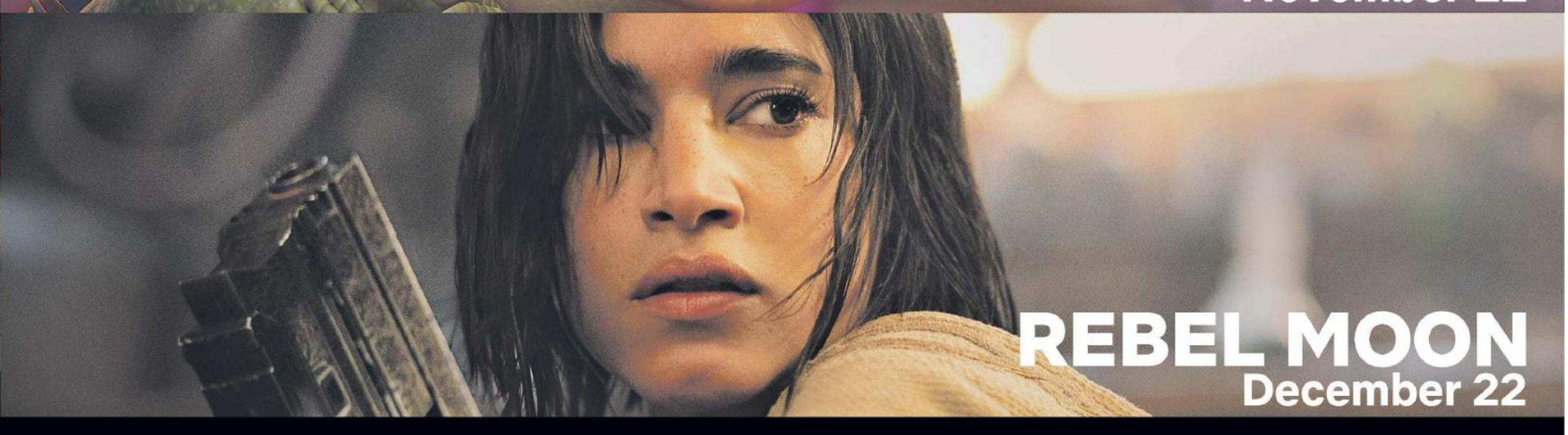
A FAMILY AFFAIR
November 17

LEAVE THE
WORLD BEHIND
December 8

SAVE THE DA







ATES

2023 FILMS
ONLY ON
NETFLIX

BAFTAs bow to 'All Quiet on the Western Front'

By Jill Lawless

LONDON — The visceral World War I German-language drama "All Quiet on the Western Front" garnered a field-leading 14 nominations Thursday for the British Academy Film Awards, while genre-bending comedies "The Banshees of Inisherin" and "Everything Everywhere All at Once" were each nominated in 10 categories.

"All Quiet," an unflinching adaptation of the classic antiwar novel about life and death in the trenches, is up for awards including best film and director for Edward Berger. Its tally of nominations is the highest ever for a film not in the English language.

Martin McDonagh's Irish tragicomedy "Banshees" has nominations including for best picture, director and actor for Colin Farrell. Nominations for madcap metaverse adventure "Everything Everywhere" include nods for co-directors Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert — known jointly as " Daniels" — and an actress nomination for Michelle Yeoh.

Baz Lurhmann's flamboyant musical biopic "Elvis" is up for nine awards, including best picture.

Winners will be announced Feb. 19 at a ceremony in London.

The nominations help cement "Banshees" and "Everything Everywhere" as awards-season favorites, following momentum-building wins at the Golden Globes and multiple nominations for Screen Actors Guild awards.

The BAFTA best picture nominees are "All Quiet on the Western Front," "The Banshees of Inisherin," "Elvis," "Everything Everywhere All at Once" and Todd Field's symphonic psychodrama "Tár."

Reiner Bajo

"ALL QUIET on the Western Front" has 14 nods.

The 10 nominees for outstanding British film, a separate category, include Charlotte Wells' 1990s family drama "Aftersun," Sam Mendes' semi-autobiographical "Empire of Light" and Sophie Hyde's smart sex comedy "Good Luck to You, Leo Grande."

Britain's film academy introduced changes to increase the awards' diversity in 2020, when no women directors were nominated for the seventh year running and all 20 nominees in lead and supporting performer categories were white.

The voting process was rejigged to add a "long-list" round in the voting before the selection of the final nominees that are voted on by the academy membership of several thousand industry professionals. For the best film prize, academy members choose a 15-film long list that all members must watch before voting for the winner.

This year there are 11 female directors up for awards across all categories, including documentary and animated films. But just one of the main director nominees is female: Gina Prince-Bythewood for "The Woman King." The other nominees are Berger, McDonagh, Kwan and Scheinert, Field and Korean filmmaker Park Chan-wook for "Decision to Leave."

Unlike some awards, including U.K. music prizes the Brits, the BAFTAs have retained separate male and female acting categories, though that is under review.

Lead actress contenders are Yeoh; Cate Blanchett for "Tár"; Viola Davis for "The Woman King"; Danielle Deadwyler for "Till"; Ana de Armas for "Blonde"; and Emma Thompson for "Good Luck to You, Leo Grande."

The actor category pits Farrell against Austin Butler for "Elvis"; Brendan Fraser for "The Whale"; Daryl McCormack for "Good Luck to You, Leo Grande"; Paul Mescal for "Aftersun"; and Bill Nighy for "Living."

Lawless writes for the Associated Press.

MOVIE REVIEWS

Altered Innocence

ICELANDIC ACTORS Viktor Benony Benediktsson, left, Snorri Rafn Frimannsson, Askell Einar Palmason and Birgir Dagur Bjarkason play friends navigating young adulthood and their relationships with one another.

The fickleness of being a teenager

Actors' raw emotion makes up for a lack of an overarching vision in 'Beautiful Beings.'

By Robert Abele

In much the way you're never really prepared for the bursts of violence and abuse in the Icelandic drama "Beautiful Beings," about a quartet of wayward teenage boys from broken homes, you're also shocked by their moments of tenderness toward each other, like the strange flower nestled in cracked pavement that both beautifies and intensifies its unlikely location.

Such is the seesawing mood of hair-trigger adolescent sensitivity — to smash, or to cry — that writer-director Gudmundur Arnar Gudmundsson seeks to explore with his mostly arresting second film, which is also his second feature about the inner lives of kids (2016's "Heartstone"). An often tense release-valve scenario flecked with moments of dream imagery and lyrical naturalism, "Beautiful Beings" certainly positions Gudmundsson as one of the more thoughtful chroniclers of the awkward age, even if he never quite knows how to corral his many moods into something wholly resonant about the nihilistic trap of delinquency. (The film was Iceland's submission this year for the international film Oscar but didn't make the shortlist.)

Narrating our way in is Addi (Birgir Dagur Bjarkason), a sharp-eyed, wiry blond who runs in a misfit trio that includes goofy, bratty Siggi (Snorri Rafn Frímannsson) and hot-headed hooligan-in-training Konni (Viktor Benóný Benediktsson), whose go-to reaction is punching. After seeing a news report about a relentlessly bullied schoolmate recovering from an assault, Addi finds himself drawn to said kid, Baldur (Áskell Einar Pálmason), introduced to us separately as a scrawny loner living in squalor with an often-absent mother (Ísgerdur Gunnarsdóttir). To the astonishment of his mates, Addi invites "Balli" to hang with them.

It could be out of boredom, or because even a pathetic outcast's parent-less pigsty is a better place to congregate than their own undesirable homes — and nervous, jittery Balli endures plenty humiliation from the others before he feels comfortable. But we sense Addi is at a stage where an extended gesture of potential friendship is of greater interest to him than getting into one more bloody scrap with other kids (usually spurred by Konni's terrifying behavior). Besides, after years of rolling his eyes at the clairvoyant ramblings of his attentive but mentally troubled single mom (Aníta Briem), Addi has begun having his own strange visions: a dream of domestic peace, or a glimpse at the future's potential violence, but sometimes just an ominous black smoke lurking in the corner.

'Beautiful Beings'

In Icelandic with English subtitles
Not rated
Running time: 2 hours, 3 minutes
Playing: Laemmle Glendale

The supernatural interludes aren't nearly as effective, however, as the more thickly present scenes of hormonal restlessness and intuitive socialization: shared cigarettes, stupid humor, lit fuses that are better off extinguished (there are some gnarly, pulse-quickening melees), and those moments of affection — helping Balli look presentable, calming Konni — that suggest they're inching toward figuring something out about the cusp of adulthood.

The pacing is sometimes shaggy, and the boys' motivations are occasionally mysterious, but Gudmundsson's young actors are magnetic in a physical, haunted way, and the talented Norwegian cinematographer Sturla Brandth Grøvlen finds a dankness of texture and color that punctuates everything from sweat and light on pasty skin to the general grey/green gloom of the boys' neighborhood.

As for how Gudmundsson handles the story's more brutal turns, it's hard not to sense the whiff of trauma as sensationalistic, even if the performances (especially Benediktsson's and Pálmason's) are solid enough to do the necessary heavy lifting. Some cruelties in wretched lives don't need explicitness for us to grasp their impact. And in the case of the reappearance of Balli's abusive stepfather Svenni (a commanding Ólafur Darri Ólafsson), which shakes up the molecules in that house and among the boys, a deterministic plotting regrettably takes over in the last half-hour. Until that point, "Beautiful Beings" and its unhurried atmosphere of caring realism had been doing quite well without it.

'Chess Story' is a masterfully calibrated wartime mind game

By Michael Rechtshaffen

Although the nondescript title doesn't exactly suggest the promise of deep intrigue, Philipp Stölzl's "Chess Story" masterfully confounds expectations as a tautly calibrated, intricately constructed Chinese puzzle of a period drama set during Nazi Germany's annexation of Austria.

Smugly dismissive of the darkening political climate surrounding the country in 1938, debonair notary Dr. Josef Bartok (Oliver Masucci) assures his wife, Anna (Birgit Minichmayr), that "as long as Vienna keeps dancing, the world can't end." But Bartok's world as he knows it very quickly comes to an abrupt end, with German troops marching into Austria just as he and Anna plan to set sail for America.

Separated from his wife, he's arrested and brought to the Hotel Metropol, commandeered as Gestapo headquarters, where the calculating Böhm (Albrecht Schuch) expects Bartok to provide him with the account access codes belonging to his aristocratic clients in exchange for his freedom.

Realizing that there's no guarantee his life will be spared once he gives up that information, Bartok embarks on a cagey game of cat and mouse with Böhm as he continues to be held prisoner in a claustrophobic hotel room where a smuggled book of annotated chess moves serves as his only connection to the outside world.

It's not the first time that "The Royal Game," an 80-year-old novella by Stefan Zweig, has captured the imagination of the international artistic community, having previously been filmed in 1960 under the more sensational moniker "Brainwashed," followed by a 1964 TV movie called "Checkmate," as well as various stage productions, including a 2013 opera.

But here, director Stölzl and screenwriter Eldar Grigorian, in addition to adding several characters, seize upon the book's surreal underpinnings and weave them into the fabric of the winding narrative, building or spiraling, depending on how you look at it, toward a mental breaking point of decidedly Kafkaesque proportions.

Masucci, who appears in every scene, potently conveys a multitude of unspoken emotions with his remarkably expressive face, both in his solitary hotel confinement and (ostensibly) later, on board that ship en route to America, where he finds himself outmaneuvering a world chess champion (also played by Schuch).

He's never less than riveting, expertly tethering his character in place even as his mind gradually begins to lose its moorings in an existence where days, weeks and months have merged into clouded uncertainty.

While Bartok emerges from his labyrinthine struggle decidedly broken but still, unlike the original text, provided with a glimmer of hope, author Zweig's journey was less encouraging.

As captured through the grimly murky lens that was Europe at that time, "The Royal Game" was written between 1941 and 1942 in Brazil, where Zweig and his wife had been living as Austrian exiles. The day after he mailed off the manuscripts of his "curious novella," the Zweigs took their own lives with a barbiturate overdose.

"I think it better to conclude in good time and in erect bearing a life in which intellectual labour meant the purest joy and personal freedom the highest good on Earth," he wrote, in despair of what could transpire.

Eighty years later, "Chess Story" and all its variations continue to serve as a reminder of the importance of remaining in the game, no matter how seemingly futile, until the last possible move.

'Chess Story'

In German with English subtitles
Not rated
Running time: 1 hour, 51 minutes
Playing: Laemmle Monica, Santa Monica

Need help making sense out of 'Slime'?

That time I got my daughter to guide me through the confusion of a reincarnation ...

By Michael Ordoña

During "That Time I Got Reincarnated as a Slime the Movie: Scarlet Bond," I laughed out loud several times — not at any intended humor, but at how utterly lost viewers will be without previous knowledge of the light novel, manga or anime TV series (or in my case, without my teenage daughter to guide me).

"Lost" is probably a gentle description of how the uninitiated will feel, watching this sword-and-sorcery Japanese animated film with sudden relatives and "relatives," business suits, actual manga being read by dragons in human form and a shape-shifting title character who is sometimes a blue glob.

Here's the bare minimum you need to know before your "Slime" experience. The backstory — not explained in the movie — is a middle-aged worker in modern Japan is murdered and wakes up in a world of dragons, ogres, orcs and magic. He tries to make it a better place. However:

He's now a "slime," considered a lowly being in Japanese role-playing games from which the show borrows some world-building architecture. He has abilities (principally the power to absorb others and mimic their shapes and abilities) that will eventually make him the benevolent ruler of a whole nation. He's called "Rimuru" here, and the series has no interest in Rimuru's Earthly murder. There's no effort to solve it. The film's whole first part doesn't involve the series' characters and the movie takes a new one as its protagonist ("Which is really a shame because Rimuru's very nice," says my daughter). Got it?

Crunchyroll / Sony Pictures Entertainment

OGRES, as they appear in the movie "Scarlet Bond."

"Scarlet Bond" opens with an ogre warrior getting cut down in a forest fight with lots of bad guys. He's saved by Towa, queen of a nearby kingdom, who can restore life force at great cost to herself via a cursed tiara. She heals and renames the ogre Hiiro, who then finds his town destroyed, and somehow divines orcs have done this (here, big boar-man dudes) (not the forest bad guys) (I don't know, dear reader, I'm just telling you what happened). He finds one of the orcs responsible: a buddy of Rimuru's. He also finds ogre survivors living in Rimuru's kingdom. One is his "brother" (really, best friend) and another his actual sister, whose prominent physical attributes, the aforementioned teen daughter explains as "fan service" and "jiggle physics."

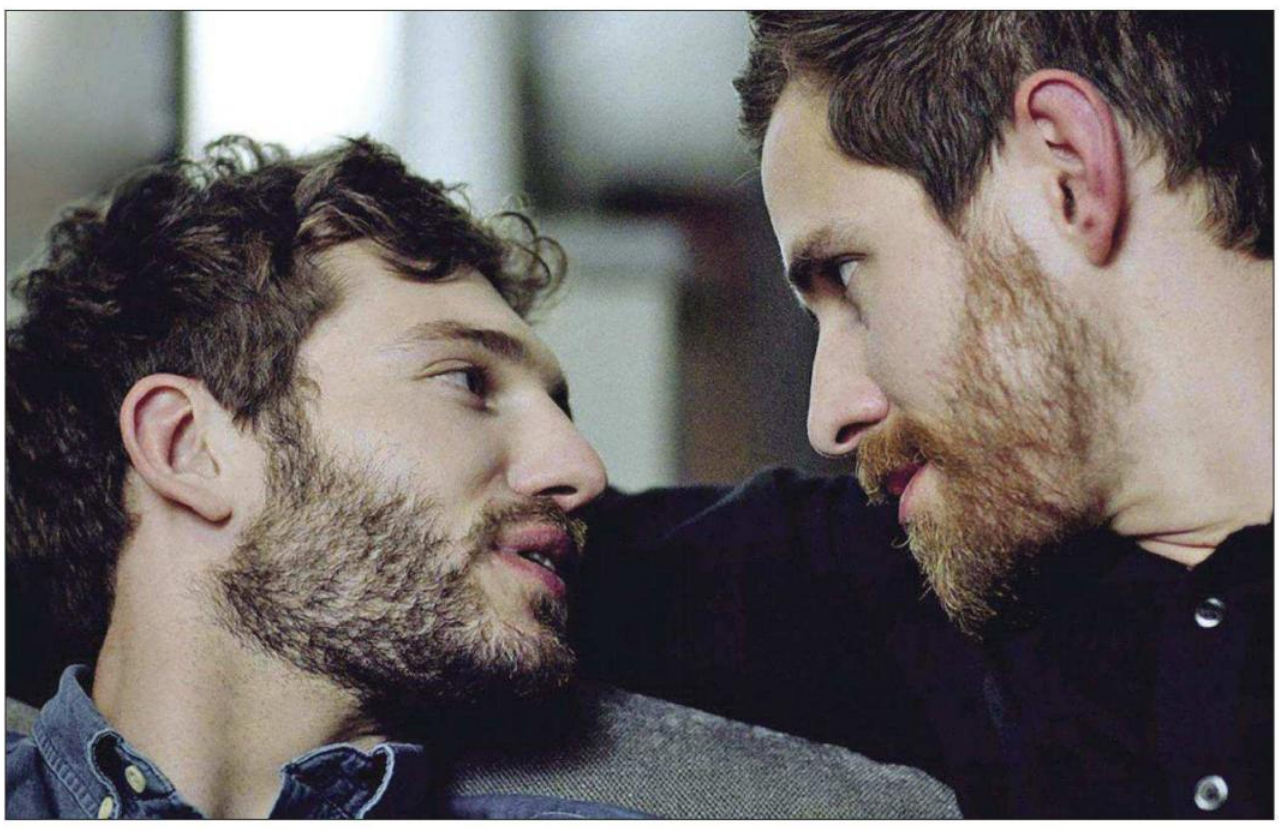
Anyhoo, all is forgiven and once Hiiro brokers an alliance between Rimuru and Towa, the actual plot begins. It has to do with poison and curses and greed and painless-looking sword- and magic-fighting. That's because "Slime" is one of the nicer anime action series. From the title and Rimuru's origin, one might expect snarky modern humor, but the proceedings are earnest — even soap-opera-ish. Many a thread is left dangling. Who has what powers and which abilities can defeat others are mysteries until they're not. The movie isn't unusual-looking or surprising, but my daughter assures me fans of the show will not want to miss it.

The rest of us will be immersed in warm confusion as things we just don't understand unspool before us.

'That Time I Got Reincarnated as a Slime the Movie: Scarlet Bond'

Available in Japanese with English subtitles or dubbed in English.
Rated: PG-13 for sequences of strong violence, some suggestive material and partial nudity.
Running time: 1 hour, 54 minutes
Playing: In wide release

MOVIE REVIEWS



Strand Releasing

ALEXANDER LINCOLN, left, as Mark and Alexander King as Warren in Matt Carter's "In From the Side."

Sexy rugby love story keeps all players at arm's length

'In From the Side' pitches lusty romance but fails to make it worth caring about.

By Gary Goldstein

For a movie that was financed via Kickstarter and made for around $60,000, the romantic sports-drama "In From the Side" is an especially well-filmed, acted and mounted effort.

It's a sexy, often engaging tale of love and lust on — and off — the pitch as two players on a gay rugby team, the South London Stags, fall for each other amid thorny circumstances.

But for all its pluses, including a refreshing lack of clichés, the movie, from multitasking British filmmaker Matt Carter (he directed, shot, edited, scored, co-cast, co-costumed, plus co-wrote with Adam Silver), insufficiently explores its central theme of romantic commitment — or lack thereof — and it's a bit of a deal breaker.

This flaw tends to keep us at arm's length from main characters Mark (Alexander Lincoln) and Warren (Alexander King), B-level and A-level players, respectively, for the two Stags, who land in bed after a flirty, boozy night at a local bar celebrating the season's first game.

The next morning, despite the guys' fiery attraction, when Warren reveals he has a boyfriend — fellow Stags member John (Peter McPherson) — it looks like Mark and Warren will be one and done. That Mark also has a longtime partner — wealthy, oft-traveling businessman Richard (Alex Hammond) — adds to the complications, even if Mark and Richard have an open relationship (with a few made-to-be-broken rules).

Still, Mark and Warren find they can't resist each other and begin a secret affair. It's an emotional and romantic roller coaster that the guys manage to keep under wraps — through evasion and deception — until the inevitable occurs and the largely unsentimental script shifts into melodrama.

Unfortunately, without a deeper and more nuanced look at monogamy, cheating and loyalty, particularly the slippery slope that can result when a couple sanctions outside dalliances, it's hard to root for Mark and Warren as much as we might like.

The attractive couple seemingly has the trappings to make their pairing work. But there's an internal disconnect preventing them from romantic success: What's really drawing them to each other as people, as potential soulmates? And, despite their excuses, really, why can't they move on from their respective boyfriends? We also never see any real chemistry or connection between Mark and Richard and, even less so, Warren and John, to justify the weight of either of those relationships.

In addition, Mark too often comes off as surly or sanctimonious around Warren, as if the A-player is the only one of them mishandling their affair. It should make Mark, his good looks aside, a less appealing love object for Warren, who nonetheless remains smitten — and increasingly so.

A Christmastime trip, in which Mark and Warren, misleading their partners, take off together for Switzerland to visit Mark's parents (Mary Lincoln, Nigel Fairs), makes for a scenic and, at times, poignant interlude. But the segment goes on too long for its own good, as does the film in general. (A serious trim throughout could've made the movie peppier and more propulsive.)

A handful of surfacy snapshots are also featured involving such other Stags members as Mark's maybe-alcoholic, needy buddy, Henry (Will Hearle); the good-natured Pinky (Pearse Egan); supportive team captain Jimmy (Christopher Sherwood); and the snide Gareth (Carl Loughlin).

More attention is given to the team's financial woes that are forcing its owners to consider disbanding the B-squad. This adds pressure to Mark and Warren's affair: Will their cross-tier coupling sink the Stags entirely?

But it's a somewhat blurrily presented notion and, for all the consternation around it, feels too "inside baseball," er, rugby, to impact the guys' romance in a relatable enough way.

Regarding the rugby itself, Carter presents the game as is, without much guidance for the unenlightened, though anyone familiar with American football will get the gist. No matter, Carter vividly captures one of his country's top sports in all its raucous, pile-driving, muddy glory, frequently using slow motion to super-expressive effect.

He also depicts that overwhelming first flush of passion between new lovers with authentic vigor and films Mark and Warren's many trysts with equal parts respect and steam. Lincoln and King decidedly bring the heat as well.

Kudos also to the superbly rousing, 1980s-style, closing-titles song "By Your Side," written and performed by, you guessed it, Carter.

As for the movie's cryptic title, it refers to an illegal rugby move but, in Carter's words, "also has a double meaning of a third person coming into and disrupting a situation or relationship from an unexpected place." It will be interesting to see what this capable filmmaker does his next time around with, hopefully, a larger budget and a few more objective voices helping to guide his choices.

'In From the Side'

Not rated
Running time: 2 hours, 14 minutes
Playing: Laemmle NoHo 7, North Hollywood

Chinese animated movie is a marvel

A mythological figure anchors the dazzling 'Yang Jian' and adds to a cinematic universe.

By Michael Ordoña

To American audiences, especially comic fans, the title "New Gods" may confuse. "New Gods: Yang Jian" is not related to comic legend Jack Kirby's 1970s DC masterwork that spawned Darkseid, Mister Miracle and others. And the gods are hardly new; the protagonists of this exquisitely animated Chinese film franchise (first "Nezha Reborn," now "Yang Jian," with "The Monkey King" possibly next) are very, very *old* gods — figures from mythology reimagined for modern viewers.

There's plenty of imagination in that reimagining: The world of "New Gods: Yang Jian" is a swirling mélange of myth, pseudo-steampunk, "Blade Runner," the kung-fu film genre and music from many corners of your ears. Bet you didn't expect a gorgeously rendered Chinese legend to be characteristically scored by a lonesome harmonica (among the comedic swing, reggae and everything else).

We're introduced via opening narration to a world that has survived an epic war among the gods in which the realms of the mortal and immortal are aware of each other but now generally keep apart. Our lethargic lead is fallen hero Erlang Shen, who used to be a big deal but now leads a group of scrappy bounty hunters on a flying wooden boat that seems in continual danger of running out of fuel. How big a deal did he used to be? He's the artist formerly known as Yang Jian, a mighty three-eyed deity who lost his powers in a nearly apocalyptic struggle involving his family. In the tradition of American detective movies, the big job he and his team lands forces him to grapple with his traumatic past.

There are fun characters and dazzling action sequences. The filmmakers' approach to rethinking legendary figures and placing them in a kind of timeless, weirdly teched-out reality is intriguing. It looks like the "New Gods" franchise is meant to be the Chinese animated answer to the Marvel Cinematic Universe, and it's certainly got the deep bench of stories to compete at that level.

It's also got the filmmaking talent. The movie is a visual knockout. The environs aren't just photorealistic, they're bursting with creativity and often effectively create emotion. Among the sumptuous sequences: the flying wooden ship traveling through a multicolored magic passage/wormhole; the poetic tableau as one character dies on a moonlit winter night; a languid shot of a character walking down a hall, captured through translucent silk curtains.

The creatures are designed with electric inspiration. So are the combat sequences — some influenced by the kung-fu oeuvres of Jet Li and Jackie Chan, some magic and cosmic without losing tension (as so often happens with flying people shooting beams at each other). One sequence seems visually influenced by Scott Derrickson's "Doctor Strange" without feeling derivative.

As to the film's messages beyond being a ripping yarn updating mythology for fun and profit, things get significantly murkier. If there's a real-world metaphor in the central conflict, it could be a polemic against governmental regulation of climate change. It could also be essentially the opposite: an argument for what is natural against what is approved by leaders. But whatever else one comes away with, "New Gods: Yang Jian" belongs alongside the more visually striking recent animated features.

GKIDS

THE HERO of "Yang Jian" is a deity who's lost his power and now scrapes by as a bounty hunter.

'New Gods: Yang Jian'

In Mandarin with English subtitles; there is also an English-dubbed version.
Rated: Unrated
Running time: 2 hours, 7 minutes
Playing: In wide release

NEW RELEASES

In 'Sick,' COVID's the frying pan and a slasher's the fire

By Noel Murray

'Sick'

Set during the early days of the pandemic, the taut slasher picture "Sick" uses the fear and paranoia of mid-2020 to clever effect. Co-written by Katelyn Crabb and "Scream" mastermind Kevin Williamson, the film stars Gideon Adlon as Parker, a college kid who is lax about masking and glib about the virus in general, even as she heads up to her family's remote cabin to quarantine with her best friend, Miri (Beth Million). Parker soon finds that she can't fully leave the dangers of the outside world behind. First, she gets a visit from her needy ex-boyfriend DJ (Dylan Sprayberry). Then the whole house is terrorized by a shadowy killer, clad in black.

The slasher threat in "Sick" is a metaphor for COVID-19, and for the way everyone once worried that a fleeting mistake — like a mask-slip, or meeting up with a secretly infected person — could be a death sentence. For the most part, "Sick" is just a slickly formulaic mid-budget horror movie, well-crafted by the screenwriters and directed with style and energy by the skilled John Hyams. But the real-world wrinkles aren't just a cynical way to make the routine more relevant. They give all the bloody murder a meaning.

"Sick." TV-MA, for violence, coarse language and drug use. 1 hour, 23 minutes. Available on Peacock

'Kids vs. Aliens'

There are two kinds of aliens in director Jason Eisener's science-fiction comedy "Kids vs. Aliens." The movie's first half is mostly about a nerdy teenage girl named Sam (Phoebe Rex), who gets tired of helping her younger brother Gary (Dominic Mariche) and his friends make DIY superhero movies at their sprawling waterfront Nova Scotia home. When a handsome bad boy classmate named Billy (Calem MacDonald) takes an interest in her, Sam neglects the children and lets a whole pack of wild teens into the house, to drink and party and trash the place.

That's when the other aliens show up: rampaging monsters from outer space, who don't care which humans are supposed to be cool and which are geeks, because their only interest is in using them for spaceship fuel. A frenzied and violent chase ensues as Sam rediscovers her inner action hero and fights to save the gang.

"Kids vs. Aliens" never rises above the level of fannish pastiche. Its clumsier and more cliched moments — and there are many — are perhaps meant to be passed off as the kind of stuff Gary and his pals like. But while the script (co-written by Eisener and John Davies) is weak, there is an endearingly scruffy vibe here, goosed by some cool-looking costumes and effects.

"Kids vs. Aliens." Not rated. 1 hour, 15 minutes. Available on VOD; also playing theatrically, Alamo Drafthouse, downtown Los Angeles

'There's Something Wrong With the Children'

There's a strong idea — too briefly explored — at the center of "There's Something Wrong With the Children," a supernatural horror film that's also about the gulf that develops between old friends when some of them become parents. Zach Gilford and Alisha Wainwright play Ben and Margaret, a childless couple who talk a lot about how they love their freedom. Carlos Santos and Amanda Crew play Thomas and Ellie, who evangelize for fatherhood and motherhood but reluctantly admit that raising two youngsters has left them with too little time to keep their marriage fresh. When their kids disappear down a deep hell-pit near the vacationing couples' rental home, they mysteriously reappear with new, more mischievous personalities. The subsequent finger-pointing exposes the cracks in the adults' relationships.

Director Roxanne Benjamin and screenwriters T. J. Cimfel and David White have a good handle on the dynamic between their four leads; and their movie hits its peak in a tense scene where they air their grievances, saying things they can't take back. But the kids figure into that argument only tangentially. Before they're possessed by forces from the beyond, the kids are often relegated to the background, brought out only when convenient to the plot. Afterward, they become fairly standard-issue devil-imps, causing damage that only occasionally seems personally targeted toward the grown-ups, in scenes too blandly reminiscent of dozens of other "cabin in the woods" movies. There's something wrong with the children, all right. The filmmakers can't figure out what to do with them.

"There's Something Wrong With the Children." Not rated. 1 hour, 31 minutes. Available on VOD

'All Eyes Off Me'

Writer-director Hadas Ben Aroya's Israeli drama "All Eyes Off Me" is a fine example of a "relay" film, in which a minor character from one section of the movie becomes a major character in the next, and so on. The picture begins with a prologue featuring Danny (Hadar Katz), a free-spirited bisexual at a wild party, looking for Max (Leib Levin), the boy who recently impregnated her. The story then shifts to Max, who has fallen deeply in love with Avishag (Elisheva Weil), who tests his devotion when she asks him to start physically abusing her during sex. The film ends with Avishag crushing on an older and more spiritual man, who is confused about why a beautiful young woman desires him.

Ben Aroya seems more concerned with exploring small moments of awkward human interaction than with making a grand statement. Because of this, there's an elusiveness to "All Eyes Off Me" that can be a bit frustrating, as Ben Aroya lingers on long, circular conversations — or extended, explicit sex scenes — with no clear goal in mind.

But the film is bracingly frank about the younger generation's pursuit of sensual pleasure (and pain). And it's graced by Weil's superb performance as Avishag. She's at once fascinating and frightening.

"All Eyes Off Me." In Hebrew with subtitles. Not rated. 1 hour, 28 minutes. Available on VOD

RLJE Films/Shudder

BEN TECTOR, Asher Grayson Percival and Phoebe Rex star in the sci-fi comedy movie "Kids vs. Aliens."

COMICS

SUDOKU

						8		
7	2							4
3			5	1				7
		9	2			3		
				5				
		5		7	8	9		
		7		6	1			2
5							8	1
		4						

Level: Diabolical

	4	3			
5					
	3		4		
	6	2			
					2
			6	4	

Level: Moderate

5	4	8	1	9	3	2	6	7
9	3	1	7	2	6	5	8	4
7	2	6	4	5	8	1	3	9
1	8	2	5	7	4	3	9	6
6	7	9	8	3	2	4	5	1
4	5	3	6	1	9	7	2	8
2	1	4	9	6	5	8	7	3
8	9	5	3	4	7	6	1	2
3	6	7	2	8	1	9	4	5

4	3	5	6	2	1
1	6	2	3	5	4
6	5	4	2	1	3
3	2	1	4	6	5
5	4	6	1	3	2
2	1	3	5	4	6

1/20/23

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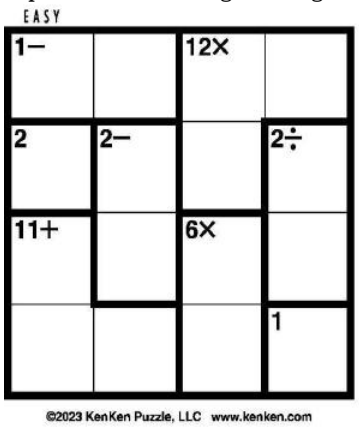
Solutions to Thursday's puzzles

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 or 2-by-3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 (or 1 to 6 for the smaller grid). For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit *www.sudoku.org.uk*.

KENKEN

Every box will contain a number; numbers depend on the size of the grid. For a 6x6 puzzle, use Nos. 1-6. Do not repeat a number in any row or column. The numbers in each heavily outlined set of squares must combine to produce the target number found in the top left corner of the cage using the mathematical operation indicated. A number can be repeated within a cage as long as it is not in the same row or column.

EASY



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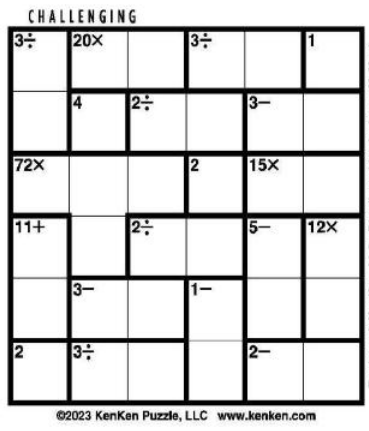
CHALLENGING



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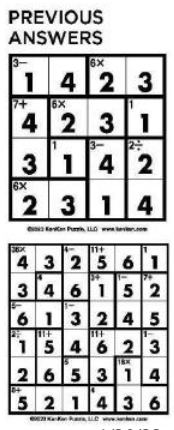
PREVIOUS ANSWERS



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1/20/23

HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis

Aries (March 21-April 19): People remember who you are because you make an impression. Emotional response creates memories.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): It is good to yearn sometimes because it tells you that what you want is deeply important to you and worth putting some effort into. Once you understand this, get into action.

Gemini (May 21-June 21): Let success stories inspire instead of intimidate. What matters most now is consistent action toward your aim.

Cancer (June 22-July 22): You've sparked someone's interest and will have the opportunity to make a further impression, a pitch, or both at a face-to-face meeting. You'll show up early and come prepared.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): You could say, do and bring much to the table, but you'll be wise to focus on what fits the situation. This takes discernment and maturity.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You'll tell stories to connect with someone or make a point. The story will change as you shape it for maximum impact.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): You are both vulnerable and powerful in those moments when your private and public selves merge.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): An astute outside observer will be an enormous help today.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Is it a hobby or an obsession? A loved one may want you to dial it back, assuming you'll have more attention to pour their way. But you're more inclined to finish what you started.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You may end up at the same destination as the rest, but your way of getting there will be different. Stick to your route; focus on enjoying scenery where you are.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): People around you will be inclined to show you how much they like you. Accept the attention.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): You may feel like a child turning the steering wheel at the front of the grocery cart. You go right, left, full circle — but the cart always goes where your mom wants it to.

Today's birthday (Jan. 20): Your cosmic birthday gift is cash in the card! This year you'll grow in skill, social reach and power. You'll gain resources and mentors to show you how to use them. More highlights: earning a certificate, exciting events with a cherished loved one, and a series of ever-bigger treats. Sagittarius and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 30, 21, 14 and 6.

Mathis writes her column for Creators Syndicate Inc. The horoscope should be read for entertainment.

CROSSWORD

Edited By Patti Varol and Joyce Nichols Lewis
By Wendy L. Brandes

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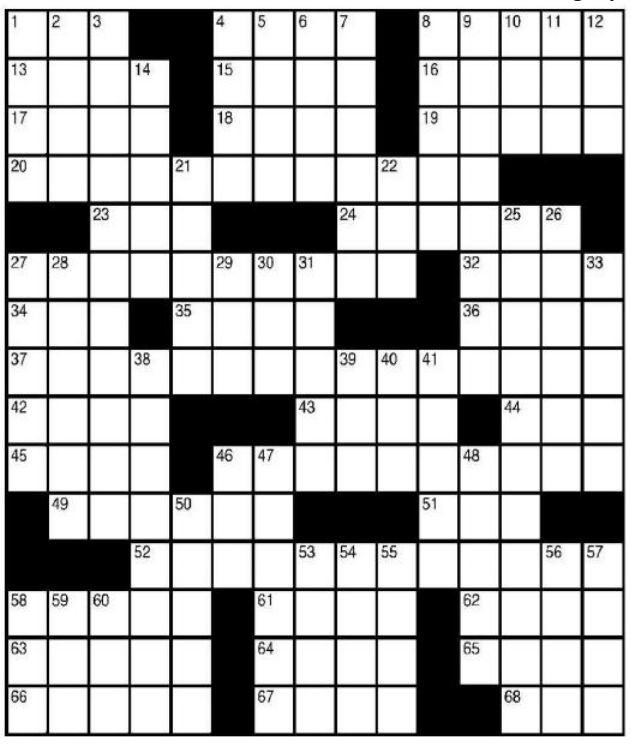

ACROSS
1 Meet portion, or portion of meat
4 Film franchise featuring Lightning McQueen
8 Regarding
13 Portfolio options, for short
15 Perched on
16 Deteriorating
17 "Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of __"
18 NYC gallery with a Bell helicopter on display
19 Melted together
20 Dinner roll that provides an unexpected boost?
23 Pool necessity
24 Had as a regular customer
27 Outlandish stories about Vietnamese soup?
32 Bulky boats
34 Lithium-__ battery
35 Seized auto
36 Tease mercilessly
37 Valued at one fancy ballpoint?
42 Texter's "But ... "
43 "Monday Night Football" commentator Aikman
44 Young man
45 Anklebones
46 Golfers who just need to dance, dance, dance before every drive?
49 Stretching muscle
51 Common Market letters
52 Chophouse order, and an apt title for this puzzle?
58 Silky fabric
61 The "genu-" in "genuflect"
62 American tennis phenom Gauff
63 Begins
64 Low-pH stuff
65 Is shy
66 Play area
67 Egg layers
68 After taxes

DOWN
1 Command to a prompter
2 Actress Moriarty who plays Starlight on "The Boys"
3 PlayStation, for one
4 Strappy top, for short
5 Comprehensive
6 Trevi Fountain city
7 Like Greenland's population
8 "Zero stars"
9 Edge
10 Sterile work environs
11 Employ
12 "Thank you for coming to my __ Talk"
14 Azalea, e.g.
21 Park and drive
22 "If I Were a __": Beyoncé ballad
25 Horseracing achievement
26 "Will do, hon"
27 Crochet loop
28 Heckle
29 Seydoux of "No Time to Die"
30 On the facing pg.
31 Compass dirección
33 Mails
38 Watering down
39 Tarzan creator's monogram
40 Also
41 Blood groups
46 AAA job
47 Neo-soul artist Badu
48 Boxer's favorite store, maybe?
50 Feel
53 "... cut __": end of a carpentry maxim
54 Bridle strap
55 Canvas shoe brand
56 Frozen treat brand
57 Station
58 Distress signal
59 Likely (to)
60 Leaves for dim sum

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

S	L	E	D		P	A	B	S	T		S	E	A	L
C	O	R	E		E	L	L	I	E		P	A	R	E
A	W	O	L		S	A	U	N	A		A	S	K	S
M	E	D	I	O	C	R	E	G	R	A	D	E	S	
P	R	E		R	I	M	S			L	E	I		
I	S	S	U	E				C	E	O		N	Y	E
			G	L	O	B	A	L	S	E	P	T	E	T
S	T	A	G		S	E	P	I	A		I	O	N	A
G	E	T	S	T	H	E	P	O	I	N	T			
T	A	T		E	A	R				A	T	L	A	S
		R	O	N			B	A	L	I		O	R	C
	C	A	P	T	U	R	E	B	Y	F	O	R	C	E
M	I	C	E		R	I	T	A	S		S	E	A	N
A	T	T	N		N	O	T	S	O		S	A	D	E
T	E	S	S		S	T	E	E	L		A	L	E	S

1/20/23

BRIDGE

By Frank Stewart

This week's deals have treated a basic technique: setting up a suit. I believe that learning players need to spend most of their time studying play and defense, not bidding conventions.

Cover today's East-West cards. Against four spades, West leads the K-A and jack of clubs. East discards a diamond, and you ruff and take the ace of trumps. East-West follow low. How do you continue?

If you cash the king of trumps, West discards. You can try to run the hearts, but when East turns up with J-10-9-6, you must lose a diamond plus a trump.

You may need a dummy entry to set up and cash a long heart. Best is to lead a heart to dummy at Trick Five and return a trump. When East follows low, play your 10.

When the 10 wins, you are safe. But if West had the queen of trumps, you could win his heart return, take a third high heart for a diamond discard and ruff a heart, then reach dummy with the jack of trumps to pitch your last low diamond on the good fifth heart.

You hold: ♠ J 7 2 ♥ A K Q 8 3 ♦ Q 5 ♣ 9 6 5. Your partner opens one diamond, you respond one heart and he bids one spade. What do you say?

Answer: If partner is apt to open light hands, you are in a dilemma. But if his opening bids are reasonably sound, you can force to game. Since your best game is unclear, bid two clubs, a "fourth-suit" call that doesn't promise great clubs but asks partner to bid on. If he bids two hearts or 2NT next, raise to game.

South dealer
Both sides vulnerable

NORTH
♠ J 7 2
♥ A K Q 8 3
♦ Q 5
♣ 9 6 5

WEST
♠ 5
♥ 7 4
♦ K J 4 2
♣ A K J 8 3 2

EAST
♠ Q 9 4
♥ J 10 9 6
♦ 10 9 6 3
♣ 10 4

SOUTH
♠ A K 10 8 6 3
♥ 5 2
♦ A 8 7
♣ Q 7

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♠	2♣	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Opening lead – ♣ K

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ASK AMY

A real apology is required

Dear Amy: A few weeks ago, I ran away from home because I couldn't get my way. I wasn't gone the day.

When I came back my mom felt disrespected because of what I had done.

Since then, she hasn't talked to me because I never apologized. She thinks that I should have apologized after the situation happened.

I understand this. When I look at what I did, it was really dumb, but I wouldn't say I like talking about it.

I really don't want to continue our relationship as a family if there is no communication.

How can I make her talk to me? What should I do?

Troubled Teen

Dear Teen: You and your mom have actually communicated. After you came home, she communicated that she felt disrespected and she wanted an apology.

You say that you understand this, yet it sounds as if you haven't apologized.

Your mother should not be freezing you out. She is supposed to be mature and forgiving. She's supposed to know what to do and how to act. And yet parents are people. They get their feelings hurt and don't always know what to do.

I think you should write to her. Explain how you were feeling when you chose to leave home, and how sad you feel now. Tell her, "I know this must have been scary for you, but I wasn't thinking about that at the time, and I hope you can forgive me so we can get back to being a closer family."

Your school counselor might be able to help.

Dear Amy: "Hank" and I work in different departments. Occasionally he travels to my area to communicate with my colleagues. He would then strike up a conversation with me. Everyone noticed his flirting and the chemistry between us.

After a few months, I worked up enough courage to ask for his phone number. He happily obliged and we texted for about two weeks.

All of a sudden, Hank hit me with, "I have a girlfriend, so I don't want to give the wrong impression." I was so thrown off, I deleted his number and blocked him.

He's totally different now. He's very short with me in passing, but he seems to have taken a liking to my coworker, who sits next to me.

They have conversations like he and I did. She's told me she is starting to like him.

I've told her to go for it, but in reality, I just want to die when she talks about it.

I hate how jealous he makes me when he talks to her, and I hate how I still like the guy, but I don't have many options except to just sit there. It's almost like he makes it his business to talk sweetly to her right in front of me knowing that he just rejected me weeks ago.

Or maybe I'm overthinking it and need a new job? What should I do? This is messing with my head.

Dying at Work

Dear Dying: You've done nothing wrong. You were assertive and authentic when you followed through on Hank's flirtation. He then let you down with a "soft pass," using the reason (true or not) that he has a girlfriend.

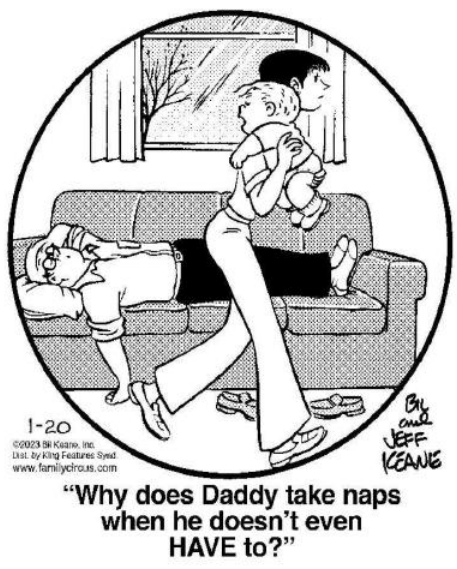
Just as you've done nothing wrong, he really hasn't, either. His chill toward you might be because you've blocked his number.

The way for you to behave now is to rise above it, to be natural and charming, to excel at your work, and to not let this episode change you in the slightest.

Do not change jobs, unless you are unable to wrangle your discomfort.

Email questions to Amy Dickinson at *askamy@amydickinson.com*.

FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane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www.familycircus.com
Bil and Jeff Keane
"Why does Daddy take naps when he doesn't even HAVE to?"

DENNIS THE MENACE By Hank Ketcham

REPLY ALL LITE By Donna Lewis

Basically, I just pray that of everything I'm forgetting, nothing is important.
get a signed print: cartoons@replyallcomic.com
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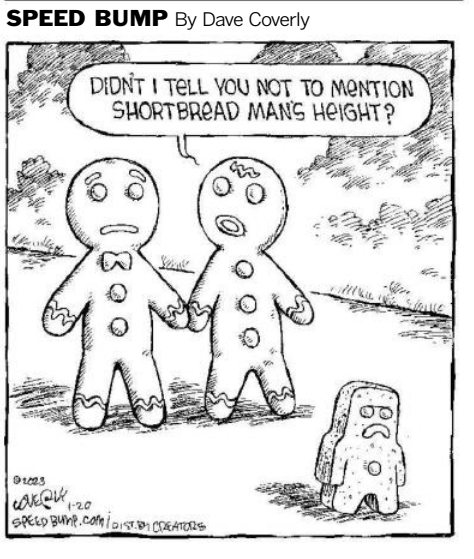
MARMADUKE By Brad & Paul Anderson

BLISS By Harry Bliss

SPEED BUMP By Dave Coverly



COMICS

LA CUCARACHA By Lalo Alcaraz

WOW, VERO, THIS IS... QUITE A LOOK.
MEANING WHAT?
NOTHING! YOU'RE LIKE "MIERCOLES ADDAMS"... ITS A LITTLE, UH, OFFBEAT, Y'KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
THIS IS COMING FROM A GUY WHO LIVES WITH A HUMAN-SIZED BUG, BUT OKAY.

CRABGRASS By Tauhid Bondia

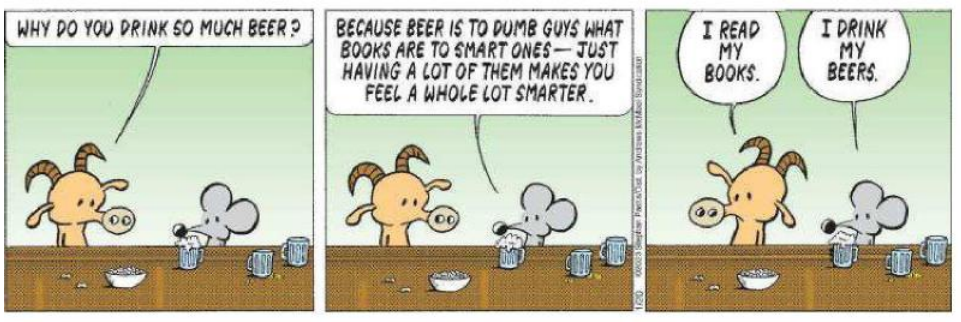
WHAT ARE YOU UP TO IN HERE?!
MOM. CHILL! WE'RE JUST STUDYING!
YEAH. RIGHT.
"STUDYING."
DEFINITELY NOT SECRETLY PLOTTING SOME EXPENSIVE HOUSEHOLD DISASTER IN HERE. ARE YOU?
I'VE GOT MY EYE ON YOU, BUDDY.
SORRY. BEING TOO QUIET FOR TOO LONG IS KIND OF A RED FLAG AROUND HERE.
AND LEAVE THAT DOOR OPEN!

CANDORVILLE By Darrin Bell

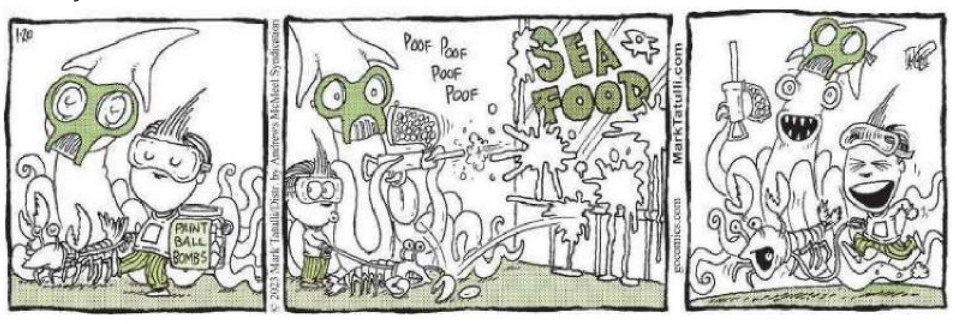
1982
DO YOU THINK OUR NAMES HAVE POWER, LEMONT?
SURE. IF YOUR MOMMY NAMES YOU "ANGEL," FOR INSTANCE, YOU'RE BOUND TO BE NICE.
WELL, THEN... MAYBE YOU SHOULD FORGET ABOUT THAT NEW GIRL, SEDNA.
IN MYTHOLOGY, SEDNA'S DADDY INTRODUCED HER TO MAN AFTER MAN THAT HE WANTED HER TO MARRY. BUT SHE WAS SO DISSATISFIED WITH ALL HER DADDY'S CHOICES THAT SHE WOUND UP MARRYING A DOG.
WHY GO AFTER A GIRL WHO'S THAT HARD TO PLEASE?
I'VE MET SEDNA'S DADDY, AND HE HATES ME, SO THIS IS TOTALLY DIFFERENT.

HALF FULL By Maria Scrivan

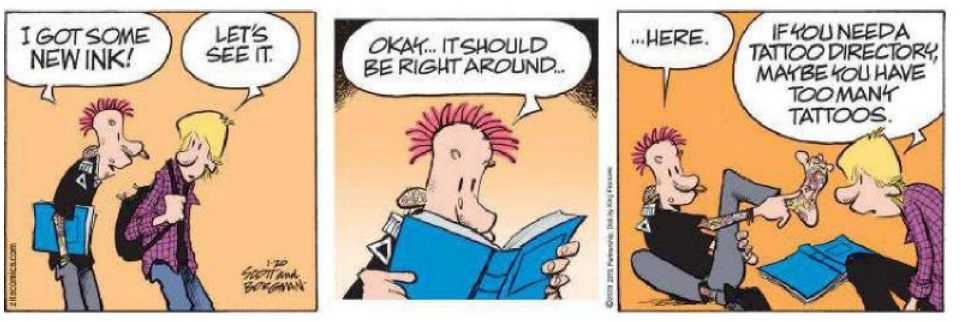
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE By Stephan Pastis


WHY DO YOU DRINK SO MUCH BEER?
BECAUSE BEER IS TO DUMB GUYS WHAT BOOKS ARE TO SMART ONES— JUST HAVING A LOT OF THEM MAKES YOU FEEL A WHOLE LOT SMARTER.
I READ MY BOOKS.
I DRINK MY BEERS.

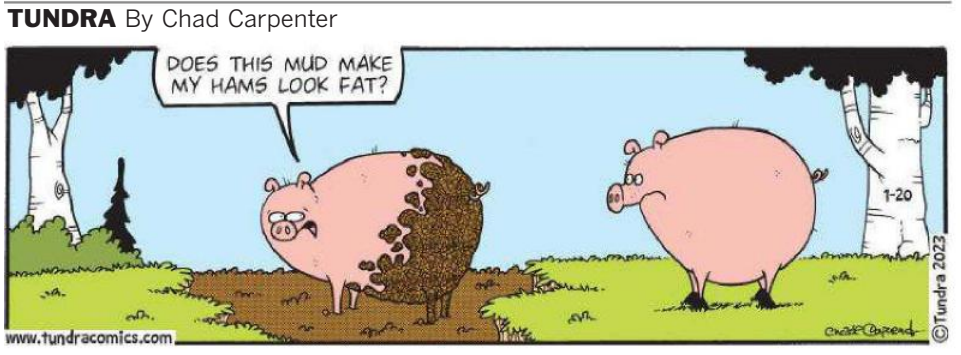
LIO By Mark Tatulli



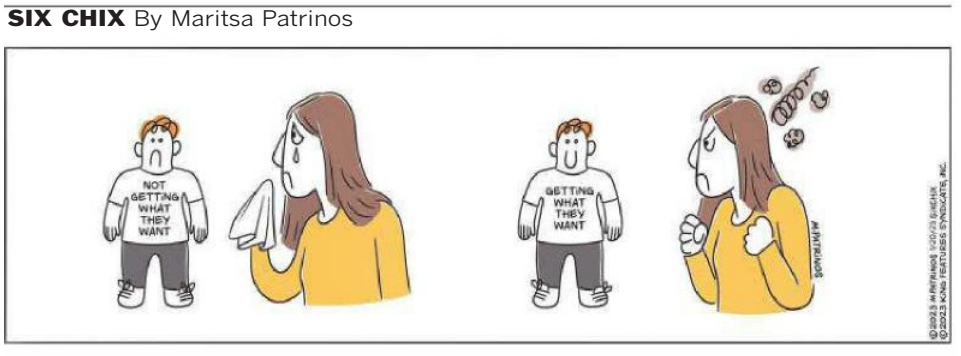
ZITS By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman


I GOT SOME NEW INK!
LET'S SEE IT.
OKAY... IT SHOULD BE RIGHT AROUND..
...HERE.
IF YOU NEED A TATTOO DIRECTORY, MAYBE YOU HAVE TOO MANY TATTOOS.

TUNDRA By Chad Carpenter



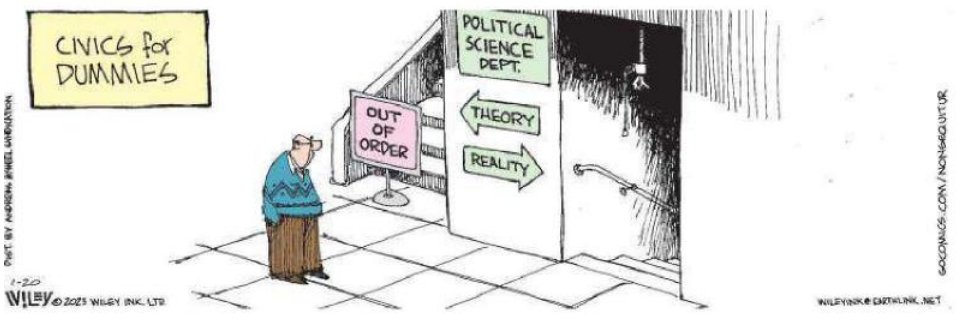
SIX CHIX By Maritsa Patrinos



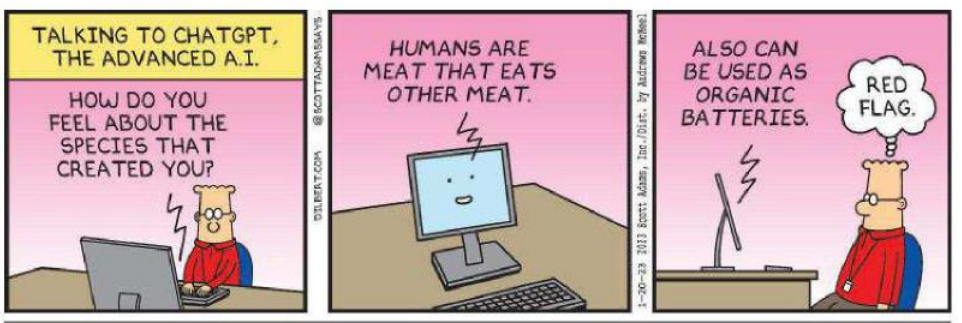
FRAZZ By Jef Mallett

YOU KNOW WHAT ANIMAL WENT EXTINCT RECENTLY?
THE "SPLENDID POISON FROG."
YOU'D THINK A NAME LIKE THAT WOULD AFFORD SOME PROTECTION.
TELL THAT TO THE IVORY-BILLED WOODPECKER.
THE WHAT?
ALSO CALLED THE "LORD GOD BIRD."

NON SEQUITUR By Wiley



DILBERT By Scott Adams


TALKING TO CHATGPT, THE ADVANCED A.I.
HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE SPECIES THAT CREATED YOU?
HUMANS ARE MEAT THAT EATS OTHER MEAT.
ALSO CAN BE USED AS ORGANIC BATTERIES.
RED FLAG.
DILBERT.COM @SCOTTADAMSSAYS

BABY BLUES By Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman

AMMIE UP!
HERE WE GO...
HAMMIE, BE PATIENT.
WREN'S JUST GOING THROUGH AN INFATUATION PHASE. ENJOY IT WHILE IT LASTS.
WUV AMMIE.
I AM NOT ENJOYING THIS!

CRANKSHAFT By Tom Batiuk & Chuck Ayers

AS SOON AS I'VE SOLD THE BOOK, I'LL DROP BY WITH A CHECK FOR YOU.
THANK YOU... IT'S VERY NICE DOING BUSINESS WITH YOU!
AND YOU AS WELL!
KOMIX KORNER
I DON'T MEAN TO BE A LANGUAGE SCOLD OR ANYTHING... BUT DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU MISSPELLED BOTH 'COMICS' AND 'CORNER'?
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books

JUMP START By Robb Armstrong

OK, SHARCANE... SORRY TO CUT THIS REUNION SHORT, BUT-
I KNOW. I GET IT...
AW! You have to go?
'FRAID SO, KENNY...
NOTHING WORSE THAN MISSING AN IMPORTANT FLIGHT!
POLICE
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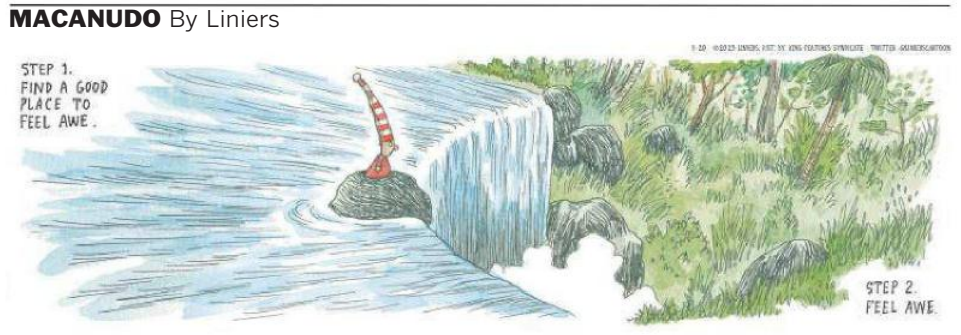
MACANUDO By Liniers



BLONDIE By Dean Young & John Marshall

DAD, WHAT SHOULD I SAY WHEN MY GIRLFRIEND DISAGREES WITH MY OPINION?
THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN SAY, ALEX
YOU COULD ALWAYS TRY TO EXPLAIN YOUR OPINION VERY CAREFULLY
THAT PROBABLY ISN'T A GREAT IDEA, THOUGH, IS IT?
NEVER, EVER, EVER, SON

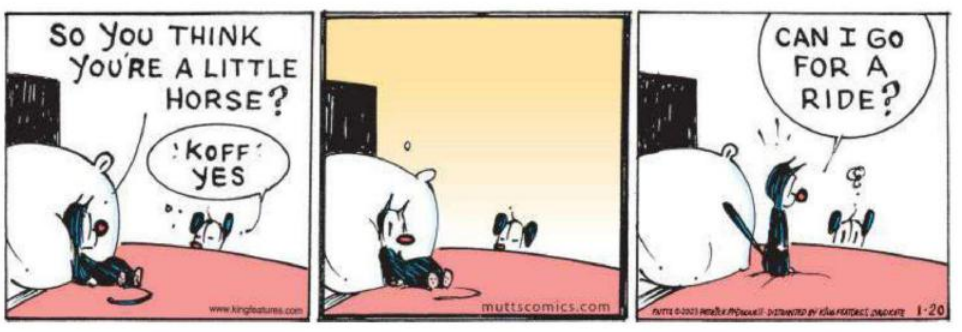
BETWEEN FRIENDS By Sandra Bell-Lundy

MY KIDS AREN'T GOING TO BE TODDLERS FOREVER, RIGHT?
EVENTUALLY THEY'RE GOING TO BE MORE INDEPENDENT AND SLEEP THROUGH THE NIGHT, RIGHT?
RIGHT?
OH, SORRY- I THOUGHT THAT WAS RHETORICAL

BIZARRO By Wayno and Piraro

DRABBLE By Kevin Fagan

MUTTS By Patrick McDonnell



PEANUTS By Charles M. Schulz

ARE YOU SURE HE'S WARM ENOUGH?
WHEN SOMEONE IS SICK, IT'S VERY IMPORTANT THAT HE BE KEPT WARM... WHY DON'T I GET HIM A BATHROBE?
I HOPE NO ONE SUGGESTS A PIPE

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